



February 19, 2019

To: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

From: Vicki Whitaker, KAOM Executive Director

Subj: Proponent Testimony on to SB 144 – *Allowing the use of expedited partner therapy to treat a sexually transmitted disease*

Chairman Suellentrop and members of the Committee:

The Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM), founded in 1913, represents osteopathic physicians and the osteopathic profession in Kansas. At the direction of KAOM members, the association is in support of SB 144 which would allow the use of expedited partner therapy to treat a sexually transmitted disease.

Several sexually transmitted diseases are rising rapidly and the ability to treat the patient and her/his partner(s) would help stem this alarming increase. According to the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention (CDC), last year there were more than 1.4 million chlamydia cases diagnosed – the most ever. Presently physicians treating the patient and her/his partner(s) in Kansas carries with it liability for the physician. This is because the physician would be writing a prescription for someone they have not seen as a patient – the partner(s).

The CDC has concluded expedited partner therapy (EPT) is a useful tool for clinicians in treating chlamydial and gonorrhea infections. A chart of the U.S on the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/std/ept/legal/default.htm>) shows that Kansas is one of four states and the territory of Puerto Rico where it is “potentially” allowable. Kentucky and South Carolina prohibit EPT and the rest of the states legally allow it. KAOM believes in the interest of public health, Kansas should recognize the legitimacy of EPT and allow it. This would remove liability when the physician, in good faith, treats a patient’s sexual partner(s). It would also treat sexual partners who might otherwise not be treated.

KAOM appreciates the opportunity to present written proponent testimony for the Committee.