

My name is Daniel Bristow and I am writing in support of Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT). I work full time as an OB/GYN resident, where I see my own patients. Many of them are pregnant or desire to become pregnant. Many of them are of low socioeconomic status and/or on Medicaid. Untreated gonorrhea and chlamydia infections have been linked to problems during pregnancy, including preterm labor, premature rupture of membranes, and low birth weight. Ascending infection from these venereal diseases can contribute to fallopian tube scarring leading to subsequent infertility. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) estimates that 1 in 8 couples struggle with infertility in some manner. Reinfection rates through untreated partner exposure uniquely impacts women - my patients - due to these issues. Men are typically asymptomatic carriers and therefore fail to seek out appropriate medical care.

Approving EPT is the right choice. Kansas would be the 47th state to approve EPT. It is supported by both the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Center (CDC) as well as The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, among others. EPT WORKS: Recent studies suggest a 30% reduction in reinfection rates compared to when partners were told to "get tested and treated".

Thank you for your consideration, and I am again in favor of EPT.

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