



Testimony of Taylor Morton (written only)  
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Planned Parenthood Great Plains Votes  
Supporting SB 404  
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare  
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Planned Parenthood Great Plains Votes (“PPGPV”) is the political and advocacy arm of Planned Parenthood Great Plains. Planned Parenthood Great Plains offers expert, compassionate sexual and reproductive health care to patients with three health center locations in Kansas. PPGPV submits this testimony in support of Senate Bill 404. SB 404 would permit the use of expedited partner therapy (EPT) for the treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). In 2023, there were approximately 13,000 STI-related visits to Planned Parenthood health centers in Kansas. PPGPV is committed to ensuring the sexual and reproductive health rights of Kansans are protected and that Kansans can access the essential care they need.

EPT is the practice of treating the sexual partners of patients that present with an STI by providing those patients with prescription medications to give to their partners. This protects both partners and limits the spread of STIs. STIs are very common, and STI rates in Kansas are generally on the rise.<sup>1</sup> EPT is an important tool that helps limit the spread of certain STIs. Medical associations, including the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists<sup>2</sup>, the American Medical Association<sup>3</sup>, and the American Academy of Family Physicians<sup>4</sup>, support the use of EPT to manage the spread of STIs, especially in cases where the patient’s partner is unlikely or unwilling to seek treatment within the context of a traditional patient-physician relationship. The CDC also supports the practice of EPT and has been recommending it since 2006.<sup>5</sup>

SB 404 would make clear that EPT is legal in Kansas and provide legal assurance to health care providers that EPT may be implemented, if needed. The uncertainty over EPT’s legality is an often-cited barrier to its use and implementation. Studies show that the use of EPT is higher in states with clear laws and policies on EPT when compared to states with no clear law.<sup>6</sup> Making clear that EPT is legal in Kansas will safeguard the health and wellbeing of people across the state. PPGPV respectfully asks the Committee to vote in favor of SB 404.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/2232>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2018/06/accelerated-partner-therapy#:~:text=Expedited%20partner%20therapy%20enables%20the,without%20first%20examining%20these%20partners.>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/ethics/accelerated-partner-therapy>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/accelerated-partner-therapy.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/std/ept/default.htm>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3927721/>