



## Testimony for Senate Bill 144

Allowing the Use of Expedited Partner Therapy to Treat a Sexually Transmitted Disease

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

By Aaron Dunkel, Executive Director

Kansas Pharmacists Association - Topeka, Kansas

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Chairman Suellentrop and Members of the Committee:

I am Aaron Dunkel, Executive Director for the Kansas Pharmacists Association (KPhA). The Kansas Pharmacists Association is the statewide professional association that represents Kansas pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and student pharmacists from all practice settings. I am writing this to you today to ask for your support for SB 144.

SB 144 would authorize healthcare providers to prescribe drugs to a patient's sexual partner, without examination, if the patient has been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease. The bill would also create a liability waiver for prescribers and pharmacists, so long as prescribing and dispensing is done in good faith and follows state law.

KPhA is in full support of SB 144. With the incidence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), such as chlamydia, syphilis, and gonorrhea, in Kansas increasing by over 65% in the last decade, this is a necessary step in protecting Kansans against the further spread of these diseases. KPhA understands the need for the implementation of this process and stands ready to work with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to ensure that the rules and regulations developed to support this process are protective of the public health while also being minimally burdensome on those we are trying to serve.

Our intent would be to guarantee that the process is protective of public health, individual health data, and eliminates the possibility of prescriptions being filled that are not needed or are not safe. Our members are ready to collect all appropriate information regarding the patients that are directed to this program. As part of the process, pharmacies can screen patients to make sure there are no contraindicated medications they are currently taking or anything else in their screening that would indicate possible negative reactions to the prescribed medication.

I know in the House Health and Human Services Committee there was a question about payment for the medications. In this situation, once the pharmacy has the patient information, the prescription provided by the prescriber, and the patients insurance information, we will be able to bill insurance in almost all cases. For those patients that do not have insurance, the pharmacy would charge the patient their cash price for the medication.

KPhA is proud to be able to support SB 144. It allows a process that will have a positive impact on the lives of many Kansans and helps support positive health outcomes by slowing the growth of sexually transmitted infections in the state.

Thank you, Chairman and Committee, for your time today. I would be glad to stand for any questions.