



Kansas Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Testimony in Support of HB2259 House Health & Human Services Committee February 22, 2021

Chairwoman Landwehr and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Kimberly Swan and I serve as the Kansas Section Legislative Chair for the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). As the premier membership organization for obstetrician–gynecologists (OB-GYNs) and providers of women’s health care, ACOG and its members are dedicated to the advancement of women’s health care through continuing medical education, practice, research, and advocacy. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in strong support of critical legislation enacting Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT).

House Bill 2259 allows for the use of EPT to treat sexual transmitted infections. EPT provides guidance to physicians about treating the exposed sexual partners of patients diagnosed with a sexual transmitted infection. Sexual transmitted infections affect women to a greater extent and are a preventable threat to a women's fertility. The goal of EPT is to prevent reinfection (specifically with gonorrhea or chlamydia) by treating a partner that is unwilling or unable to seek medical care.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has concluded that EPT is a useful tool for partner treatment and has recommended this practice since 2006. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist (ACOG) also supports EPT in jurisdictions where it is legally permitted. The organization has gone on to provide guidance in principles for practice which have been included in this bill. Some of the guidance includes which partners should be treated, advice on patient counseling and written instructions for partners with encouragement for partners to seek medical treatment for further evaluation.

I have been a practicing physician for over 15 years and have practiced in Kansas for greater than 9 years. I will frequently have to retest and occasionally retreat my patients due to reinfection from a partner that has not sought medical care. If this legislation is adopted, Kansas will be the 46th state to allow for EPT. The passage of this bill will align medical treatment with nationally recognized standards and provide the best medical care possible for all Kansans.

We respectfully urge the committee to pass out HB2259 favorably.