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OPPONENTS

None.

VOTE YES ON SB 212 (Koehler)

Fight Climbing STD Rates: Permit Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)

Legislation needed to implement CDC-recommended strategy

Two common sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), chlamydia and gonorrhea, are serious health problems in Illinois.

- In 2007, over 55,000 chlamydia cases and over 20,000 gonorrhea cases were reported in Illinois. Chlamydia cases increased 90% from 1997-2007.
- Chlamydia rates in the city of Chicago, and Pope, Peoria, and St. Clair Counties are double statewide rates.
- STDs can cause severe health problems for women, including pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), infertility, and ectopic pregnancy. Antibiotics for chlamydia treatment can cost under \$2.50 per patient, while PID treatment can cost over \$1,000 per patient.

EPT is recommended by CDC and the American Medical Association, and is permitted in 15 states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) treats partners of patients diagnosed with STDs.

- Half of the sex partners of patients with STDs get no treatment for their infection, often because they have no symptoms, and are likely to reinfect the patient or infect other partners.
- The bill would allow medical professionals to provide antibiotics or prescriptions to the sex partners of patients with gonorrhea and/or chlamydia, to be delivered by the patient.
- Along with medications or prescriptions, the provider would include written materials with: allergy warnings, medication directions, information on treatment and prevention of STDs, and the need for a follow-up medical exam including testing for HIV and other STDs.
- EPT is permitted only if the provider believes the partner is unable or unlikely to seek an in-person exam and treatment.

EPT is safe and effective.

- Single doses of common antibiotics treat gonorrhea and chlamydia. The most common side effect is mild gastrointestinal intolerance.
- No problems with antibiotics prescribed through EPT have been reported in California since the program began in 2001.
- In studies funded by CDC, EPT cut STD reinfection rates by between 20% and 46% compared to traditional partner referral methods.

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