

MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

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May 27, 2014

The Honorable James Marleau
Chairman, Senate Health Policy Committee
The Michigan Senate
P.O Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Senator Marleau:

On behalf of the 15,000 physicians in the Michigan State Medical Society, I would like to ask for your support and swift action on House Bill 4736, a bill that would allow for the practice of Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) in the state of Michigan. Michigan is currently one of only six states that does not use this money-saving and problem-solving therapy. With your leadership, EPT can become a reality in Michigan and provide the tools for physicians to cut down on costly reoccurring visits to the physician's office for a treatable infection.

House Bill 4736 allows for the practice of Expedited Partner Therapy that would allow the physician to write a prescription to a partner when a patient arrives with either chlamydia or gonorrhea. This practice is expected by the United States Centers for Disease Control as a safe and effective tool to combat the spread of these two commonly treatable infections. California was the first state to implement this practice while also providing a help line for those who had questions or were in need of help. Ten years after the start of the call line it was disbanded because it was so successful that no calls were being placed to the help line.

States around the country have been making the change to allow for this therapy option since California made the first steps. Results have been shown that this therapy works. Studies have shown that states that have implemented EPT have seen a 33 percent reduction in re-infection rates, which could translate into millions in savings for Michigan's Medicaid program.

House Bill 4736 provides a common sense tool for physician to curb the growing effects of two common and very treatable infections. Michigan is prime for change since it is only one of six states that does not allow for this current practice. Please support House Bill 4736 and take action on this important issue.

Respectfully,



James D. Grant, MD
President

c: Julie L. Novak, Chief Executive Officer, Michigan State Medical Society
Colin J. Ford, Senior Director of State and Federal Government Relations, MSMS