

**Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, Inc.
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Submitted Testimony of Lester Silberman, MD
Medical Director
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
To the Public Health Committee, March 23, 2011
Regarding HB 6618

I am writing in support of HB 6618, specifically Section 12, which provides for the prescription and dispensing of oral antibiotics to partners of patients diagnosed with Chlamydia and/or gonorrhea. Even though antibiotics are very effective for the treatment of these two infections, recurrence still occurs and is far more likely to be caused by re-infection from an untreated partner than a result of failure to complete a course of medication or failure of the antibiotic treatment itself.

This expedited partner therapy which does not depend upon the untreated partner to make an appointment and appear at a healthcare facility carries with it an improved chance that the partner will, in fact, take the medication, be successfully treated, and not cause re-infection of the individual who has sought treatment or anyone else. It is an unfortunate reality that one infected individual may pass Chlamydia and/or gonorrhea to several others. Early treatment will obviate that and reduce the morbidity and cost of dealing with these two infections.

As far as the safety of treatment without actually seeing the individual, it should be mentioned that where hotlines have been established to solicit reports of adverse events such as allergic reactions or gastrointestinal problems, there have been no serious complications of the expedited partner therapy. The CDC has recommended this approach and I urge the General Assembly to approve this section of the bill before it.