

February 13, 2023
Proponent Testimony
SB6
Oral – In Person Testimony

Dear Honorable Senator Gossage and Committee Members of Public Health and Welfare,
Thank you for allowing me to speak to you as to why I and many others in Johnson and Douglas County strongly urge you to pass this bill out of committee.

I come to you as a Precinct Committee Woman, a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, with an extensive background of 24 years in the health insurance industry and dealing with the elderly population in nursing home facilities.

Here are the reasons I and others feel it is critical that our elected officials pass this bill:

- In 1996, HIPAA was a federal law that was created to protect sensitive health information from being disclosed without the patient's consent or knowledge. As a licensed life and health agent, healthcare companies and healthcare providers are strictly held to complying with this HIPAA Law.
https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/consumer_rights.pdf
- Our Constitution gives us certain unalienable rights that should never be violated by state or local government officials. Health care decisions are between an individual and their doctor. Government should not be able to interfere with that. This bill guarantees that the patient-doctor relationship is preserved.
- This bill is not bi-partisan in any way. I believe we can all agree that COVID-19 was traumatic for all of us regardless of what party we were aligned with and what matters most is what we gained from this experience!
- We now have the opportunity to review the laws that we have in place and take a closer look at the language to look for ways that make sense while also assuring our local communities can implement important safety protocols and protections for Kansans if another pandemic would occur.
- Instead of saying a local health officer "may order" an individual, Kansans that I have spoken to feel that the language "may recommend" will protect their rights and can avoid being considered government overreach. I believe everyone during the COVID pandemic cared deeply about preventing the spread and keeping families safe and healthy.
- Also, the language of "refusing vaccinations" should be replaced with "refusing medical exams, treatments or testing which should be required, because medicine has never been about "one stop shop for all." Each individual has the right to decide with their doctor which medical treatments are recommended for them based upon each individual's existing health conditions and risks.

I appreciate your understanding of my request to support this bill and I know that if you do, you will be protecting Kansans health freedoms.

Thank you

Respectfully yours,
Carol Daunis
Precinct Committee Woman, Olathe, KS