

Senate Public Health and Welfare
SB #6
Proponent Testimony
02/09/2023

Dear Honorable Chairwoman Senator Gossage and Members of the Committee,

I strongly urge your support to SB #6.

This bill is of the utmost importance after all we have learned from the last 3 years. So many people did things, tried things, because they didn't know what else to do, and they were just looking to do anything that *might* help keep people safe. And now we have learned, most of those things truly didn't help, but did in fact hurt.

I am a mother of 3 school-aged children. Though I often worried about the detrimental effect these lockdowns, social distancing, and masking had on most children, I have gratefully had the opportunity to homeschool these children of mine during the lockdowns and beyond, so didn't have to worry so much about the impact masking and social distancing had on them specifically. Until we had to go to the doctor. My son required medical attention. We attempted to see his doctor, and were refused treatment because my son was unable to wear a mask. He had tried, and had had a reaction where he hyperventilated and couldn't breathe. As a mother who loves her children and does everything I can to care for them, I wasn't about to force my child into a situation where he wasn't able to breathe. The doctor told me that if my son couldn't wear a mask, he couldn't come in the building, but he would be willing to see my son in the parking lot, where the doctor's nurses could hold up a sheet while my son undressed in order to address the issue. The doctor asked my son to undress in a parking lot. A doctor, who was surely trying to do what he felt best for all of his patients, but who also has taken an oath to "do no harm", offered to have my *10 year old son undress in a parking lot* rather than walk 5 feet into the building into a private room where we wouldn't pass by anyone. How do you think that affected a 10 year old boy? Do you think that that option was the least harmful option? I most certainly did not and refused, and we had to leave without my son's medical issue being addressed. And this is only one of many stories I could tell.

We have since learned that the result of the lockdowns was not better health, but worse. It was not less deaths to covid, but more deaths to suicide. It wasn't for the children's benefit, but to their detriment. Theories abound on the reasons why all of this may have happened, and one of the plethora of ideas, is that of weakening our society, our people, as a weak people is a controllable people. There will always be weak people, but I assure you as you look around today and see, there are a lot of people who didn't buy in, who will stand for their freedom, their children's freedom, their family's and friend's freedom, and even the freedom of people they don't agree with. There are more strong people now than before the lockdowns. If weakening the people was the plan, it failed miserably, and woke the silent warriors. We will not sit idly by and allow our freedoms to be legislated away by people WE hire to represent us. You have a high, high calling. Does your character have a price, is it for sale? Or will you answer that high call and honor the position you have been entrusted into and listen to those of us who call on you to protect our freedoms as you should? Choose today who you will be.

I urge you to listen to your constituents that elected you and support SB #6.

Sincerely,
Nicole Vannicola
Douglas County Precinct 52 Committeewoman
Eudora, KS