



Written Opposition Testimony of the **Kansas Public Health Association** to the
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
SB 6 | February 13, 2023

Chairwoman Gossage and members of the committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) to provide in-person opposition testimony for SB 6, which will restrict the authority of the secretary of health and environment and local health officers to prevent the introduction and spread of infectious diseases. The Kansas Public Health Association is a professional association for public health practitioners, professionals, and advocates in Kansas and we represent over 800 individuals who work towards healthier communities within the state.

SB 6 would fundamentally change the ability of local health officers to control infectious diseases in their own communities and, in turn, would make disease control unnecessarily difficult in the state, putting Kansans at risk for contracting serious diseases that could negatively impact their health. From 201-2022, over 131,375 cases of disease were investigated by Sedgwick County. This number shows the potential spread of illness throughout a susceptible community if prevention measures, such as isolation and quarantine, were not utilized. A bill like SB 6 would fundamentally change the ability of local health officers to control infectious diseases.

KPHA supports the current authority of the Secretary of Health and Environment, and local health officers to limit the spread of infectious disease within their own communities. We encourage the committee to vote no on SB 6 in its entirety and maintain current statute.

Respectfully submitted,

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KPHA is a professional association for Kansas public health practitioners, professionals, and advocates. As a voice for public health, KPHA provides a forum for individuals and organizations to work collectively to assure conditions in which Kansans' lives will be healthy. *(This position reflects the collective position of association members through the action of the Board of Directors and may not necessarily reflect the views of each KPHA member's employer.)*