



Office of  
OSBORNE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Testimony of Osborne County Health Department to the  
House Health and Human Services Committee  
Opponent for Substitute for SB 29  
March 7, 2025

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding Substitute for SB 29.

As a local health department, we are deeply committed to controlling and preventing the spread of disease in our community. Protecting the health and safety of Kansans is our top priority, and preventing the spread of infectious and contagious diseases is essential to achieving that goal. Any decision to prohibit public gatherings is never made lightly and always involves careful consideration of both the individuals affected and the broader community. With this in mind, I respectfully express my opposition to this bill.

Changing the current law to allow only recommendations against public gatherings puts the health of our citizens at greater risk and undermines communities' ability to protect themselves from the rapid spread of serious diseases like measles, tuberculosis, or future emerging threats. We recognize the need to balance personal freedoms with public safety. However, when it comes to infectious diseases, we must have the necessary tools to keep families and businesses healthy. Restricting the ability to limit public gatherings would take away a crucial tool for doing so.

As a health department we share with you the responsibility for the health and safety of everyone in our community. A responsibility we also share with our appointing authorities on our local boards of county commissioners and our partners at KDHE. I urge you to take no further action on this or any similar bill.

Respectfully,

Erin Kibbe RN

Erin Kibbe RN  
Administrator  
Osborne County Health Department