



## WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF Sub Bill for SB 29

March 7, 2025

Chair Carpenter, Vice Chair Bryce, Ranking Member Ruiz, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding Sub Bill for SB 29. The Kansas Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP), representing 400 pediatricians and residents across the state, is dedicated to ensuring that all Kansas children can grow up safe, healthy, and strong. With this mission in mind, we respectfully oppose Sub Bill for SB 29.

This bill limits the ability of county or joint boards of health or local health officers to take swift action in response to outbreaks of infectious diseases. Kansas has long upheld the principle of local control and expert-driven decision-making. By restricting the authority of local elected or public health officials, Sub Bill for SB 29 undermines communities' ability to protect themselves from the rapid spread of serious diseases like measles, tuberculosis, or future emerging threats.

As physicians, we recognize the balance between personal freedoms and public safety. However, when it comes to infectious diseases, timely and targeted measures—grounded in medical expertise—are essential to keeping families, businesses, and schools running smoothly. Delayed responses to outbreaks burden hospitals, disrupt workplaces, and force unnecessary school closures, creating greater hardship for Kansas families and small businesses.

A strong economy depends on a healthy workforce. When infectious diseases spread unchecked, parents miss work to care for sick children, students fall behind in school, and healthcare costs increase for both families and the state. Local businesses suffer when employees are out sick, and communities bear the financial burden of preventable outbreaks. Ensuring that local elected or public health officials can act quickly and appropriately is not just a health issue; it's an economic one.

For these reasons, we urge you to oppose Sub Bill for SB 29 and ensure Kansas remains prepared to respond effectively to public health threats while keeping our communities strong and resilient.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We remain a resource to answer questions on pediatric health issues.

Respectfully,

Dena K. Hubbard, MD, FAAP

Public Committee Chair

Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics