

February 9, 2017

Health & Human Services Committee

Chair: Representative Daniel Hawkins
300 SW 10th Street, 186A-N
Topeka, KS 66612

Subject: Support for HB2205

Dear Representative Hawkins,

I am writing today as the President of the National Meningitis Association (NMA), a non-profit organization whose mission is to raise awareness about bacterial meningitis and its prevention. Everyone involved in our organization has personally suffered from this disease. I am also writing as a parent whose son died from bacterial meningitis, because we did not know about available vaccines.

I strongly support House Bill HB2205 requiring Meningitis Vaccinations for students, two doses of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine, in middle school and high school, in accordance with CDC recommendations. It is also important that students and their parents be educated about the two different meningitis vaccines that are needed to cover the meningococcal meningitis serogroups. In 2014 vaccines were licensed to protect against serogroup B meningococcal disease. This protection is not in the conjugate vaccine.

It is my hope and request that Kansas will join the many other states such as New York, Louisiana, Delaware, Missouri and Utah who have recently adopted rules or passed legislation requiring meningococcal vaccine(s), or education about vaccine-preventable diseases. This is a link to meningococcal legislation/mandates currently in existence. It would be wonderful to add Kansas to this list.

<http://www.nmaus.org/state-meningococcal-disease-policies/>

As a parent whose son died from meningococcal disease, I have personally witnessed the devastating effects of this preventable disease. We have advocates in many states, including Kansas, who have similarly suffered tragic losses.

I hope that your colleagues will support this worthy bill. Our children are our future, and we need to protect them.



www.nmaus.org
www.preteenvaccines.org

Thank you for your consideration.

Lynn Bozof, President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Bozof". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

National Meningitis Association
www.nmaus.org
678-779-3370

P.O. Box 60143
Ft. Myers, FL 33906
www.nmaus.org