

March 13, 2017

RE: Opposition to HB 2205

Dear Esteemed Members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee:

Freedom. It is a human right to exercise freedom of thought, speech, conscience and religious belief. But, when it comes to vaccination, those basic human freedoms are being taken away in America, one state at a time.

I strongly oppose HB 2205 because I believe the vaccines parents choose to give their children should be a private medical decision between themselves and their doctor – without state interference – and without denying a child their civil right to a public education.

The CDC schedule now recommends 72 vaccines from birth to age 18 and 71 vaccines to adults age 18 – 65. It doesn't seem that many adults choose to follow the CDC recommended schedule for themselves, which leads me to conclude that the general population is in favor of vaccine choice.

Yet, public health officials believe that all children must be treated the same and get 72 doses of 16 vaccines – no exceptions and no questions asked – even though children are not all the same. Some children are genetically, biologically and environmentally more susceptible to being harmed by inflexible vaccine laws, especially when doctors cannot accurately predict which child will be brain damaged or die from vaccination.

According to CDC data for 2016, there were only 5 cases of invasive meningitis in Kansas during 2016, and it's unknown how many of those cases were caused by the bacterial serogroups that are covered by the vaccines. Nationwide, there were only 340 cases of invasive meningitis reported in 2016. This number divided by 320 million residents in our country equals 0.000001% of our country's population. Therefore, these small numbers do not justify requiring the meningitis vaccine for school entry.

Where there is a risk, there must be a choice, and this is why I strongly oppose HB 2205. Let parents and doctors personalize each child's health program; one size does not fit all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacia Phillips". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Jacia Phillips  
Olathe, KS