

March 13, 2017

TO: Kansas Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee

RE: Letter of Opposition to HB 2205

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly oppose HB 2205 as it is a serious infringement of my religious rights and freedoms. It is my family's right to practice our religious beliefs freely without governmental interference in my family's medical choices.

Meningitis is very rare in Kansas, with only 5 cases reported to the CDC in 2016. Let's continue to keep families in control of their own medical choices. There are other initiatives within the medical community that can be used to promote awareness of meningitis and what to look for.

As a devout Christian Scientist, our family has a religious exemption. We have concerns about the future of medical exemptions because the same lobbying groups that are advancing this bill have publicly stated that they want to eliminate non-medical vaccine exemptions. These groups will likely return with a bill to do just that and that is not ok in Kansas. Please protect the rights of the few and the many at the same time by supporting vaccine choice and thereby opposing HB 2205.

Sincerely,

Michael Phillips
Olathe, KS