

February 7, 2020

Re: HB 2601

SPEAKER

Dear Education Committee Members,

My name is Heidi Romenius. I am the mother to a five year old boy named Tristan who is in kindergarten this year. As a responsible new parent, I followed his pediatrician's guidance to vaccinate him from birth. He received every vaccine required on time according to the CDC schedule, never missing a dose. By the time my son was a year old, he'd suffered from so many ear infections his doctor told me that if he got one more infection, they'd have to put tubes in his ears. I have since learned that chronic ear infections are a side effect of vaccines, and in fact listed on the inserts as Otitis Media. As we continued through his toddler years and keeping up with the vaccination schedule to prepare him for school, he battled constant illness. But it was after his last Hepatitis A vaccine that our world changed. My son developed Eczema, classified as an Autoimmune condition, in every single crease of his body. Large red, itchy, painful patches. At the same time he developed MULTIPLE food sensitivities to grains, dairy, eggs, peanuts, and even citrus fruits. I must pack his lunch every day because it would be absurd to ask the school to provide such a strict meal, and he is now just one more reason why every school today is a peanut/allergy free zone. Finally, as if the other issues weren't trying enough, he suffers from a virus of the skin most commonly occurring in immunocompromised individuals. A virus that was nearly unheard of when I was a child. For over two years now, every morning and every night, we sit in the bathroom applying medication to every single lesion on his body, with no end in sight. Every day I send him to school with bandaids or duct tape and full length clothes, and yet the schools are concerned about chicken pox which is gone in ten days. I can assure you this is much worse. He hasn't gotten to swim with other children for two years, and has been denied participation in gymnastics. To see my young son's hurt and disappointment literally breaks my heart.

His specialist advised that further vaccinations should not be continued and would only create MORE inflammation in his body. I agreed and gladly listened. It was clear that the 54 doses of vaccines required by kindergarten were NOT increasing the health of my child. Rather, we have spent thousands of dollars on medical tests, expensive supplements, and allergy free grocery bills. Where is the CDC to help with that? My son's problems do not qualify him for a medical exemption. He now attends school under a religious exemption. Yet had I done my research on vaccines beforehand, I would have discovered the truth that vaccines are manufactured using aborted fetal cell lines from hundreds of abortions and fetal DNA is in the final product. I would have utilized a religious exemption from the very beginning as I am NOT okay with this. No doctor ever gave us informed consent. I would have never knowingly injected part of another of God's creation into my own son. It is not only unethical, it is shown to be linked to the rise in childhood autoimmunity, autism, cancer, and possibly even gender confusion. Definitely not a product that should be mandated with no safer alternatives on our most vulnerable pediatric population.

Speaking of mandates, when is enough, enough? Our children today do not need even one more unnecessary vaccine added to the schedule of already 70 plus doses. There is not one person in this state who should ever believe that they are important enough to make that decision ALONE, without proper guidance and negotiations through the legislative process and a vote. Every single child is different, with varying genetic risk factors that may make them more susceptible to vaccine adverse events. If the HPV vaccine is added to the school mandate, which has been shown in hundreds of scientific peer reviewed medical journals and the American College of Pediatrics to be nothing short of harmful, improperly tested, and completely unnecessary due to pap smears, thousands of Kansas parents will simply not comply. This vaccine is completely unnecessary for school attendance, and having a family member who was injured by this vaccine, and knowing many others, it is a risk I can assure you I will NEVER take for my child. I would pull my son out of school to spare him of the liability free risks associated with this vaccine, and so would many others. It is NOT worth it. We are already victims of the "unavoidably unsafe" pharmaceutical products as defined by the US Supreme Court. A fully vaccinated 18 year old will have received 12,000 mcg of Aluminum. This is not acceptable. I respectfully plead with you to support parental rights, vaccine choice, and medical freedom in the state of Kansas.

Heidi Romenius  
Derby, KS