

February 11, 2020

RE: Support of Kansas HB 2601

Dear Education Committee Members:

In America it is a human right to exercise freedom of thought, speech, conscience and religion. I fully support HB 2601 and the amendments to rule-making authority in regards to the process of adding of vaccines to the Kansas required schedule for school attendance.

I was born and raised a Christian Scientist and I believe any vaccines parents choose to give or not give their children should always remain a private religious and medical decision – without state interference – and without denying a child their civil right to a public education.

Worldwide, without regard for individual religious freedom, governments are forcing and coercing a pharmaceutical product upon children that is made from religiously objectionable ingredients, specifically human aborted fetal DNA, animal cells, carcinogenic preservatives, and neurotoxins such as mercury and aluminum. This coercion of mandated vaccines is a clear attack on religious liberty and a form of government overreach. Making personal decisions about protecting one's body is a basic human right, and most religions agree that our sacred bodies are the holiest of temples.

In recent years, the people of California, New York and Maine lost their religious exemption to state vaccine mandates, joining Mississippi and West Virginia as states that deny access to education, childcare and other public benefits to children whose religious beliefs dictate a choice to decline vaccines. In New Jersey, after the religious exemption repeal bill was defeated in January 2020, Senate President Stephen Sweeney made it clear that the concerns of the faith community would be ignored and deemed insignificant by stating, "*We're ready to go to war on this, and we will...We will pass this bill.*"

When governments abuse their power to oppress citizens over their religious beliefs, tyranny is the only word for this persecution. The medical and pharmaceutical lobby are unaccountable to the American people. State militarization of public health in the 21st century should be of great concern to every person who values life and liberty. These laws repealing religious exemptions violate fundamental human rights to informed choice, bodily autonomy, and also the civil rights to attend both public and private schools – *and we don't want those laws in Kansas.*

After seeing religious freedoms being stripped away state by state, we urge your immediate attention to this important issue regarding the persecution of people who choose to honor their faith by refusing or foregoing some or all vaccinations.

Where there is a risk, there must be a choice. Please commit to protecting religious, parental and medical rights in Kansas.

Sincerely,

Michael Phillips
Olathe, KS