



February 11, 2020

Testimony for House Bill 2601

Dear Chairman Huebert and Committee Members:

As a loving mother of two, registered nurse, and proud Kansan, I am writing in opposition to House Bill 2601. The regulatory process of state vaccination requirements must maintain its current flexibility and fluidity in order to be responsive to evidence-based recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Limiting the ability of the secretary of the Kansas Department of Health & Environment to make decisions based on safety concerns, new evidence or best practice in an efficient manner will result in an extremely delayed legislative process that will not allow for timely notification to schools, families and medical providers in the state.

I respect the opinions of those who personally oppose immunization, support religious freedom, and wholeheartedly accept the fact that in certain individuals, vaccination is medically prohibited. The state of Kansas continues to allow families to claim exemption for religious reasons, regardless of the fact that no single religious organization expressly forbids the receipt of vaccinations. The options of families opposing vaccination will not change. However, moving to a statute-based system for the timing and consistency of immunization requirements will only serve to further politicize the immunization requirement process in Kansas.

I am the mother of a medically complex child whose condition, should I choose to believe the "immunization conspiracy theories", could be loosely tied to the timing of her childhood vaccinations. Her condition could also be linked to increased environmental toxins, changes in the way our crops and livestock have been raised and processed over the last few decades, the presence of genetically modified organisms in food... the list of hypothetical causes can go on and on. Immunizations have protected our population from serious and potentially deadly illnesses and epidemics, as well as protecting the medically fragile who are unable to receive the protection of vaccination through herd immunity. Whether you believe in the validity and safety of immunizations or not, for the sake of efficient and timely statewide decision-making, the regulatory authority of KDHE's secretary to make sound, evidence-based recommendations should remain in its current state.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Amanda Chance, BSN, RN, NCSN  
Section 504 Coordinator/School Support Nurse - Wichita Public Schools  
Member – Kansas School Nurses Organization, National Association of School Nurses