



PROMOTING AND IMPROVING POPULATION HEALTH IN KANSAS

February 13, 2020
Daniel Craig, President
Kansas Public Health Association
House Bill 2601

Chair Huebert, Vice Chair Dietrich, and Members of the Committee, on behalf of the Kansas Public Health Association this written testimony **is submitted in opposition of House Bill 2601.**

Listing vaccines in statute, as proposed in HB 2601, would serve to delay protection of Kansas citizens from preventable diseases and would add a layer of politicization to vaccinations, a proven public health strategy. Public health professionals at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) are the best prepared to follow changes in the science related to immunizations and vaccination schedules. By removing the regulatory authority of public health experts at KDHE to determine vaccination requirements, HB 2601 risks Kansas' ability to respond to the best scientific recommendations for immunizations as set forth by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is a group of medical and public health experts that develops recommendations on how to use vaccines to control diseases in the United States. ACIP meets multiple times annually. ACIP recommendations inform decisions to both add *and* remove vaccines from the list of Kansas requirements. We oppose this bill and are in favor of the KDHE Secretary retaining the flexibility and authority to respond to new vaccines recommended by the ACIP as part of the routine child and adolescent vaccination schedule.

In summary, we **oppose HB 2601**. Kansas public health professionals are in favor of KDHE's Secretary retaining the flexibility and authority to be responsive to new vaccines recommended by the ACIP. Thank you for the opportunity to present our concern.

KPHA is a professional association for Kansas public health practitioners, professionals, and advocates. As a voice for public health, KPHA provides a forum for individuals and organizations to work collectively to assure conditions in which Kansans' lives will be healthy. This position reflects the collective position of association members through the action of the Board of Directors and may not necessarily reflect the views of each KPHA member's employer.