

Date: February 13, 2020

House Committee on Education; Chairman Huebert and Members of the Committee

Written testimony submitted in opposition of House Bill 2601

First, I would like to thank you for serving the Great State of Kansas. As duly elected political advocates for all the citizens of Kansas, I respect the pressure you must endure during your tenor as politicians. I hope you will all follow some basic principles in making your decision to allow KDHE determine what is medically right for all Kansans.

1. Understand the public health interest. The overseer of health policy must have a clear understanding of the effect on the citizens of Kansas that the policy will have. The KDHE doctors and professional care givers see the effects of poor health all too often with issues like: The Flu, DTaP, Hib, IPV, Measles. On this point I would hope you would side toward the Medical Professionals for helping you understand the benefit of using them as the decision-making team.
2. The overall effectiveness of the policy. Will the recommendations coming from KDHE do what it is designed to do? Most of the recommendations are proven with the help of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The recommendations coming from the KDHE are not simply something they dreamed up. They have been proven to be effective in helping control and prevent the disease's that we can be effective against.
3. The third and final basic principle to consider is the negative reaction of your voting public. It may not matter how much you care about the health of all the citizens of Kansas, some will disagree with the proven effectiveness of medical advice coming from professionals. This area may be thought of as being solely the responsibility of the legislature since it may involve their political future. This is probably the most important area that should be placed directly on the party responsible for the policy -KDHE-. I would suggest that all the false and unusual ideas be directed to the professional body most effective in addressing them.

Please remember that the Kansas Department of Public Health and Environment is most interested in the health and well being of all the citizens of Kansas. True they may not be interested in getting votes from all the voters of Kansas, just keeping all of them healthy.

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