

February 7, 2020

Dear Chairman Huebert and Health Committee Members,

I first began studying about vaccines back when my oldest daughter was getting ready to start kindergarten. I went to our pediatrician and asked for the vaccine inserts so that I could study them and learn about the ingredients, the side effects, and about the safety studies.

After doing a lot of research on this topic, I decided to not continue vaccinating my child, and have chosen to not vaccinate any of my other four children. What I realized though, was how different my other children were when they were little. My oldest (who was vaccinated) was very fussy as a baby. I remember times when she would just scream for hours and my husband would hold her and walk with her during the night, just trying to get her to calm down. She also had multiple ear infections and she had to go on antibiotics often to clear those up. I was a first time mom, so I didn't know any different. I thought it was normal.

Then when I had my other four children who were not vaccinated, none of them had ear infections or the bouts of screaming as a baby. In fact, we ended up not continuing the well-child visits after the first 6 months or so, because they were never sick. Whenever we would go in for a well-child visit, they would end up coming down with something a few days later. So we just stopped going.

Over the past year, I have done much more extensive research on vaccines, because of all the legislation being passed in other states taking away exemptions. I knew that it was only going to be a matter of time before Kansas would start to feel the pressure and more vaccine mandates would be coming.

Medical procedures should never be mandated and should always be the choice of the individual. It was very disheartening last year when the KDHE single-handedly added two more vaccines to the Kansas mandated vaccine schedule for kids. This kind of power should not be given to one person and needs to go back to the legislature. Our concerns as parents and Kansas citizens need to be represented when decisions like this are made.

Please support the bill, HB 2601, that would give this power back to the legislature, thereby allowing our voices to be heard.

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