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February 18, 2022

Chairperson Brenda Landwehr
House Committee of Health and Human Services
Kansas State Capitol
10th and Jackson, Room 112N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: HB 2498 Oral (in person) and written testimony

Dear Chairperson Landwehr:

I reside in Louisburg and operate a law practice in Overland Park. I want to thank the committee for the opportunity to speak in support of HB 2498.

HB 2498 has a primary purpose: to prevent the KDHE from unilaterally mandating vaccines to treat COVID-19 for Kansas children. Under K.S.A. 72-6262, the Secretary of Health can mandate any vaccine he or she deems necessary for our children through a proposed change in the Kansas Regulations. Even though this process has resulted in the requirement of approximately 70 vaccine doses for Kansas children, this bill does not decrease the number of vaccines already mandated but only prevents the Secretary from adding COVID-19 to the list.

The evidence is clear that our children are at very limited risk of suffering from COVID-19, especially those in the younger category. It is also clear that there are risks to taking any vaccine, especially for COVID. Normally, a vaccine is tested for up to 10 years to determine its safety because the effects of vaccines cannot be reversed. These vaccines to address COVID have not been adequately tested but have been rushed to market to satisfy, in part, a political agenda. The Secretary of Health, a political appointee, should not have the sole discretion to mandate this vaccine on our children.

It should be noted that the technology used on these vaccines, the mRNA technology, is new. In fact, this difference caused the CDC to change its definition of "vaccination." Previously, a vaccination was defined as the act of introducing a vaccine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease. Since 2021, the CDC definition now reads that it is "the act of introducing a vaccine into the body to produce protection to a specific disease." Do we want to solely empower a political appointee to make such crucial decisions for our children?

I urge the Committee to adopt HB 2498 so that any decision to require our children to undergo a COVID-19 vaccine will be made by the legislature.

Respectfully,

William D. Mize