

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

February 18, 2022

PROPONENT of HB 2498

Stephen H. Snitz  
Prairie Village  
Johnson County  
House District 21

Madam Chair Landwehr and House Committee on Health and Human Services,

I am supporting HB 2498 to prevent a single person, in this case the Secretary of Health and Environment, from having the authority to REQUIRE school children to have a COVID-19 vaccination to attend school. The health evidence is in and it is now clearly known that children are the least adversely affected by the COVID disease of all age groups. CDC data shows that for children from May 2020 to September 2021 there were 498 deaths from COVID, 79 bicycle accidents, 534 suicides, 730 by poisoning, 1053 in traffic accidents, 3285 by gun violence, 3434 in car crashes and 3960 drownings. COVID was 3.67% of these 13,573 recorded deaths, and .00007% of the total child population under 18 of 74 million in the U.S. Though COVID deaths are higher in older age groups, the preventative treatment of younger children in schools is more severe than that of adults. Given that children under 18 are not fully developed and preventions like masks, quarantining and remote learning are in themselves dangerous to these young people, it is completely unwise for one individual to have the sole discretion over preventative treatment for all school children. This bill prevents that from occurring and the taking of a more reasoned approach to these impactful decisions. I urge you to vote to pass this legislation out of committee and onto the next step. Thank you.