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Written Testimony - Opponent
House Bill 2498
House Committee Health & Human Services
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Chairwoman Landwehr, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 2498.

Kansas NEA believes that vaccinations are essential medical tools in preventing infectious diseases. Kansas NEA also believes that the Secretary of Health and Environment should have the authority to determine vaccination requirements. They are the educated and trained professionals with the expertise to make those decisions.

There are currently no requirements in place from the Secretary of Health and Environment for the COVID vaccine. Those decisions are currently made at the local level with locally elected school boards or within the private childcare facilities. Kansas NEA supports these local decisions based on guidance of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the American Academy of Pediatrics, or the Center for Disease Control.

We believe this bill is a solution in search of a problem and creates a slippery slope to eliminate the Kansas Secretary of Health and Environment's authority to make any immunization requirements.

We urge the committee to oppose HB 2498.