

March 17, 2021

Written Testimony in Opposition of:

SB212

Submitted by:

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USD 457 Garden City Schools

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Dear Members of the Senate Health Committee:

Please vote "no" on SB 212 and maintain the vaccination structure that works for Kansas.

SB 212 removes decision-making authority from vaccination experts and places it with the political body. Being able to react to disease based on science and timeliness is essential to preventing the spread of disease. Vaccination is science not politics.

The COVID-19 pandemic only reinforces the importance of public health in retaining its authority to regulate vaccines in a way that serves all Kansans based upon best practices rooted in science and facts.

I have been a registered nurse for 35 years. Most of those years have been spent working with children. I have personally seen the difference that a vaccine can make. When I first started my nursing career I worked on a Pediatric hospital unit. Every winter we would have several patients with Haemophilus influenza meningitis. When the HIB vaccine was developed and administered it made a huge impact in how many children were getting sick. This vaccine, like many others have saved many lives every year.

It would make no sense taking the responsibility away from the health experts in determining the vaccines that should be recommended for our children. These are the experts, and like any field we look to those with the most knowledge to help guide our decision.

Thank you for your time and again please vote no on SB212.

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Garden City School District