

In Support of SB 212  
Molly Martin  
Assaria, Saline Co, Kansas

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I am addressing you today on two fronts- most importantly as a mother, and also as a nurse.

I am a mother to two little boys- a 1 year old and a 5 year old. I am their voice. God chose me to love, teach, provide and protect these children. It is my responsibility as a parent to research, carefully weigh the pros and cons, and make decisions for my children. This includes one of the most consequential decisions, those relating to healthcare. A parent is the only person who truly knows all the individual qualities and considerations when it comes to a child and their medical decisions. As a parent, one of the scariest things in the world is the possibility of a stranger having the authority to decide medical decisions for my perfectly healthy child, whom they have never met. Never laid eyes on. Know nothing about. That's not what physicians do.

As a nurse, I know ANY pharmaceutical product comes with the possibility of adverse effects, sometimes including death. Vaccines are no different in this respect. Any medical intervention has consequences. You don't know until after you take that medication, after you go through that cancer treatment, after you inject that vaccine what individualized effect it will have on your individual body. This is why ALL people deserve the autonomy to make these decisions for themselves. For this exact reason- EVERY SINGLE nurse and doctor is taught to practice informed consent. Informed consent means a patient is given the information of the risks and benefits of a medical intervention and the patient makes their own decision. It is the physician's job to ensure the patient has all the information- positive and negative- that they need to make an informed decision. It is the patient's job to make the decision. Under the practice of informed consent- any medical decision CANNOT be mandated. This certainly includes the decision of which vaccines a child will receive. I have had patients refuse certain treatments/medications and as a nurse, I respect that. My personal opinion of their medical decisions does not influence my practice, as it shouldn't. The same should be said for the Secretary of KDHE. Medical mandates are the antithesis of informed consent. Medical mandates do not provide parents and children with the risks and benefits and they do NOT allow for a decision.

Thank you,  
Molly Martin