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Testimony before the Kansas Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare, 2/13/23 concerning SB6

Madam Chair, distinguished committee members:

My name is Festus Krebs III MD MBA and I am a proponent of SB 6. Trust in Kansas public health officials and policies is broken. Our trust is broken because of the actions of our Secretary of Health and local Kansas health officers during the pandemic.

Anyone who disputes this did not attend the 5 days of public testimony in the special session October 2021 in this room on Government overreach and Covid-19 mandates. I spent days listening, and I assure you there were hundreds of people hopping mad, both testifying and in the overflowing gallery. Some of the reasons for their anger were public school closures which caused most students to fall 3-6 months behind, as assessed by the 2022 NAEP math & reading report.

School closure and business lockdown policies caused massive increases in ER visits by teens for anxiety and mental health issues. Students with disabilities were hit particularly hard. Loss of jobs followed, due to government shutdown of businesses, or having to stay home to care for children. Enforced gene-transfer therapy injections for children who are at NO risk from Covid. Children forced into quarantine at home multiple times simply for being in the same room as an asymptomatic child who tested positive.

At the Overreach hearings and again in 2022 committee hearings, our Secretary and other Kansas public health officials refused to listen to the expert medical advice and testimony given by many physicians experienced in Covid-19 treatment, including Senator Steffen and

myself. Despite absolute mountains of high-quality evidence and medical studies from dozens of countries which proved that the policies of these officials ran contrary to both medical evidence and the truth, they plowed on with their failed policies.

Why did our officials, despite high-quality, experienced medical advice, continue to enforce these ineffective policies that controlled the Kansas populace, and made children suffer horribly?

These tyrannical policies, and unnecessary widespread misery of Kansans, are the reasons trust in the Kansas Secretary of Health and local health officials has been destroyed.

The first step to repair trust in public health is to limit the authority of unelected public health officials to violate patient autonomy and usurp right to personal choice. Doctors and scientists should advise, and Kansas citizens should decide. This is accomplished by SB6.