

February 8, 2023

Dear Chairman Gossage and Committee Members,

I am a proponent for SB 6. I do not want the secretary of health and environment and local health officers the ability to issue orders with penalties. They can educate so that we can make our own educated decision. I have two kids that were in middle school and high school during the lockdowns. We were told they had to go to school with masks on. My kids felt isolated. One ended up with an infection on her face due to the mask. Another I had to pull from school because he got headaches from wearing it. At the beginning, I followed their mandates but after doing my own research from other highly respected doctors and professionals, I found that what the local health officers were saying did not add up or make since. The United States needs to continue to stand for freedom of choice. Doctors and health professionals do not always come to the same conclusion and everyone has the right to choose for themselves.

We also have a family owned business. We were considered "essential" so we did get to stay operating. Who gets to decide if your business stays open or not? Does it make sense to close a small business compared to leaving Walmart open? The virus doesn't discriminate against.

These decisions our health officers made affected many lives and it didn't need to. Lets make sure we safe guard Kansas so this doesn't ever happen again. It is fine to educate but not to dictate what we should or shouldn't do. I have lived in Kansas my whole like. I want to be proud to continue to live here and know that our right for free choice is protected.

Thank you for being open to listening to my testimony,

Shelby

OP, KS