

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
SB 6

Proponent Testimony
Written Only Testimony

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Senate District #2

Honorable Chairwoman Gossage, Vice-Chair Erickson, Ranking Minority Pettey, and Committee Members:

I strongly urge your support of SB 6.

Public health overreach and the loss of individual freedoms during the COVID response debacle negatively impacted countless lives in our state. Lockdowns, forced quarantines, mask and vaccine mandates ruined small businesses, severely disrupted and hindered learning for children, forced people to lose their jobs, and caused sudden death and irreparable vaccine injuries to so many lives. It's time to shut the door on these mandates and forced quarantines once and for all. Under no circumstance can our Constitution be thrown out and governors and bureaucrats, acting like dictators, be allowed to take over. That's exactly what happened during the COVID response.

Let's look at mask mandates for example. Though many doctors and scientists cried out from the very beginning of the pandemic that masks are worthless in stopping infection or the spread of SARS-CoV-2, bureaucrats still forced mandates on the citizens. In fact, just last week the Cochrane Library's review of masking trials should sound the death knell for mask mandates everywhere. The Cochrane Library is well-known as the premier evidenced-based organization in biomedicine in the world. Their findings: the wearing of masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses had almost no effect at the societal level, according to their rigorous new review of the available research. Here's the link to the report:

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD006207.pub6/full>

If "following the science" means updating former theories when new evidence becomes available, then institutions that require masks should finally concede, three years into the pandemic, that indefinitely forcing them on unwilling people, especially children, is not a defensible strategy. As for any lingering government requirements, let this be the final and long overdue word: no more mandates.

The role of secretary, county commissioners, and public health officers is to *recommend and educate*, not to mandate. We cannot allow mandates to be dictated to the people ever again. That is why supporting SB 6 is so necessary.

I ask for and would appreciate your support of SB 6.

Sincerely,
Richard Mullen
Lawrence, KS