

Senate Health and Public Welfare Committee

SB 6

Proponent Testimony

9 February 2023

Madam Chair Landwehr and the House Committee on Health and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak out on an issue that has affected our lives significantly. I understand that the committee is contemplating a bill that will prevent the Secretary of Health and Human Services, county commissioners, and public health officers from mandating public health measures, keeping their role as only advice and education. It is about time! I am for SB 6.

Over the last three years, our government agencies have been responsible for untold harm by overreach in terms of the public health response. From lock downs which hurt or killed small businesses, to masks which divided & shamed people, to mandates of an experimental substance that caused people to demonize one another, to non-stop fear mongering, to masking and wanting to mandate an experimental 'vaccine' for children at zero risk. This public health response was an unmitigated failure on the part of elected and unelected officials forced on free citizens.

This overreach by public health authorities required two members of my family request religious exemptions for the 'vaccine' in order to continue to work. My husband, who worked from home, was told he would have to be vaccinated. He went through the exemption process, risking his job. We thank God he received one. We had serious talks about what we would do if he was denied—how many months before the money ran out, selling our home... This was supposed to be for his own and the public's good—really? Someone who works at home? My son, who is in the Army, had to go through extensive paperwork and interviews to even submit his religious exemption. Thank God this mandate was lifted in 2023 by the Pentagon, but not after considerable expense of time, effort, and stress. Government and bureaucrats do not know best. One size doesn't fit all.

Our city was particularly draconian when it came to mask mandates, given off and on by the health officer and enforced by the county. I have spent considerable time protesting these mandates and speaking out against them in county meetings. I see these policies and mandates set up by elected and unelected officials as an infringement on all our life, liberty, and property. They are an overreach of the worst kind.

As usual, the best society is the also the most free. Free to consider the evidence personally and make the medical decisions that are best for themselves. Free to have information and advice without compliance being mandated as a condition of participating in our society. Free to debate the pros and cons of policy in the realm of our political life. Thank you for your consideration. I would appreciate your support of SB6.

Sincerely,

Michelle L Eagleman

Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas
House District 44