



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare Opponent of Senate Bill 315

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**Blake Flanders
President & CEO, Kansas Board of Regents**

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 315.

The portion of SB 315 we would like to speak to is the repealing of 76-761a, the meningitis vaccine requirement to live in student housing. This vaccine is an important measure to help prevent an outbreak of meningitis for students living in close quarters on campus. These types of concentrated living situations are at a high risk for the spread of numerous types of viruses and bacteria. This vaccine is one tool that can help stop a meningitis outbreak to occur. Bacterial Meningitis, which is what the vaccine is aimed at, can be very serious and can cause death with people that have the infection within as little as a few hours according to the CDC.

We would request that this portion not be repealed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.