

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
March 20, 2023

Connie Satzler

Chair Gossage, Vice Chair Erickson, and Members of the Committee, as an individual and concerned citizen of Kansas, this written testimony is submitted in **opposition of Senate Bill 314**.

This bill before you today is being proposed as “necessary” to protect our students from an impending COVID vaccine requirement. However, there are no plans to require the COVID-19 vaccine by KDHE or by vaccine advocates. Rather, **it is another attempt at the first step in undoing Kansas’ current process for adjusting the wellness vaccine requirements for school and childcare attendance**.

Vaccinations are among the greatest achievements of public health. The current childhood vaccination schedule protects against many diseases that used to claim the lives of thousands each year in the U.S. With the potential for the epidemiology of diseases to shift over time, new diseases to emerge, and vaccination recommendations to change, it is important that the list of childcare and school vaccination requirements remain under the authority of the KDHE. Minimal changes have been made to the list of school vaccination requirements since the regulation became effective, only three times in the past 41 years.

Additionally, in a statewide survey conducted by Public Opinion Strategies in January and February of 2022 (<https://nurturekc.org/kansans-support-vaccines/>), 85% of Kansas voters, across party lines, believed that KDHE is the appropriate entity to set wellness vaccine policy for Kansas children. KDHE has the clinical expertise to make those decisions, and they’ve gotten it right each time. There has been no attempt by the secretary to add COVID vaccination to the schedule, just like there has been no action or conversation about adding the seasonal flu vaccine.

Thank you for the opportunity to share why I oppose SB 314.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me at [contact info] if you have questions.

Connie Satzler
Manhattan, KS