



February 15, 2024

Senator Beverly Gossage
Chair, Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

RE: SB 391 / Letter of Opposition

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society. Our mission is to "Advocate for evidence-based public policies to reduce the cancer burden for everyone." To that end, ACS CAN will continue to prioritize policies that help every Kansan prevent, find, treat and survive cancer. We are here today to oppose SB 391; a piece of legislation that could place the health of cancer patients at greater risk.

ACS CAN represents millions of patients and cancer survivors and their families nationwide, including the estimated 16,840 Kansans who will be diagnosed with cancer this year. Cancer treatments – from chemotherapy to immunotherapy to bone marrow transplants – often weaken a patient's immune system, making cancer patients especially vulnerable to communicable illnesses. Vague and subjective exemptions from vaccine requirements, like those in SB 391, undermine our ability to protect our constituents who are already facing a life-threatening illness.

On behalf of cancer patients and other patients living with compromised immunity, ACS CAN asks the committee to oppose SB 391. Thank you for the consideration.

Megan Word
Government Relations Director, Kansas
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network