

March 19, 2023
PROPONENT
SB 315
ORAL – Web Ex

Dear Chairwomen Gossage and Committee Members,

Our religious beliefs for our children are not protected and need to be.

My name is Olivia, mother to three children ages 5,3, and 1. I'm reaching out asking for support for this bill, trying to help save other families from what we were put through last year.

We live in a small community of about 2,500 people. Over a few month span in 2022, we were denied entry for childcare not once, not twice, but three times because of our sincerely held religious beliefs. Daycares and schools need to be held accountable and our children need equal protection.

One Daycare went so far to even remove the religious exemption option they stated they accepted in their handbook when they had spots for all three of my kids. As soon as they found out we would be turning in religious exemptions in place for vaccinations, we were told that our children were not allowed to attend. Disobeying Kansas statute 65-508 as they accept government funds they are supposed to follow the law. But when there is no recourse in denial what stops them.

Our faith was defined during this time, both at risk of losing our jobs as we had missed so many days at work caring for our kids. We are dependent on a two household income to make ends meet.

But, our God has brought me here to speak out to help with a voice of change, to help others as they may be struggling with similar situations.

As a parent, it is our job to instill morals and beliefs into our children until they are at an age to explore this world on their own. Our rights to religion, should be just that our right to practice our religious beliefs. Our children should not be excluded in this nor should they have to choose between their faith and schools, jobs, or daycare restrictions for their future kids.

Kansans need to come together and pass SB315 for religious freedom for all.

Sincerely,
Olivia Lyon
Phillipsburg, KS