

Feb 15, 2023

Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee

- Dear Senators,  
We already have existing policies in place for children to receive exemptions from vaccination requirements that schools and child care providers already follow.
- SB 390's new way of opting-out of vaccination requirements – especially for children – is the first step in unraveling the critical work that has nearly eradicated diseases like polio, hepatitis, measles, mumps, and rubella. This bill would turn back the clock by several decades, failing to protect our children from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Employers

- Private businesses should have the freedom to decide what is in the best interest of their patrons and employees.
- Employers have the right to establish employee qualifications, which can include health and safety standards, to protect their employees and customers.
- Employers in our state have an obligation to provide a safe workplace for their employees. They need to retain flexibility in the policies they enact to meet this requirement.

Personally, both my brother and sister have had friends die from COVID, as they were unvaccinated. And when I worked at the local children's hospital a few years ago, an 8 year old girl was sick enough to be admitted for measles treatment, as she was unvaccinated. It uses up much more of our health care dollars to treat the illness instead of preventing it. It was a totally preventable admission, and a waste of health care dollars.

Sincerely,

Sherris Bellamy of Overland Park, KS