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The reasons that my husband and I choose to not vaccinate our six children are our private reasons. Shared between ourselves and our doctor. They are not meant to be shared with you or anyone else in order to justify our right as parents to make decisions for the well-being of our children. I should not have to come to Topeka and beg for a way to keep my children safe. But, this is the age of big government and so here I am, asking for you to give me back something that was mine at the conception of my children.

Our country, as a whole, recognizes the value of life and what it means to sacrifice it for others. For our military men and women, we have medals of honor recognizing bravery and death on the battlefield. Our government and citizens know what these men and women give up for their country *just by serving* in the military and so they are recognized at sporting events and on the news. To know that they willingly give up time with their loved ones and maybe even their lives inspires great awe. The key here though is *willingly*. Our government has the authority to draft men and women for military service. Forcing them to put their lives on the line. In the Vietnam War, we saw this happen and the backlash from American's. Why? Because people want to know that it means something. That their sacrifice is for something and is completely necessary. That there is no other way and that it is an emergency. Our government has not exercised this authority since Vietnam because it knows that its use should not be taken lightly. That there should be extreme circumstances when asking for so much sacrifice.

With the vaccine debate, there is no emergency and no extreme circumstance that demands the sacrifice of our children. In the early 1900's disease was rampant and vaccines were considered the only way to prevent more diseases like smallpox. But even then, the Supreme Court in 1905 upheld that Massachusetts' could require the smallpox vaccine in the *event of a pandemic* and the fine for not complying was \$5.00. So, it was recognized even then that there needed to be a way to opt out. However, in the year 2012, things are different. The morbidity rates from disease are significantly lower because we know more about how important it is to wash hands and keep things sanitized and we have better medicines to deal with diseases.

So, how responsible and safe is it for every child to receive every vaccine in the same manner when each child is so different? We are told that every child must receive vaccines, even though there is a chance of a severe reaction or vaccine-related death, for the sake of the "common good" and it is said that those who have unfortunately suffered severe reactions or vaccine-related deaths were an essential sacrifice for the common good. The idea that this was for the common good brings up the need to define what common good means. The government would like for us all to believe that it means majority wins and whatever is good for the majority is the common good. But that would mean that there are those who lose out (the minority) and therefore the "good" cannot truly be common. The common good is only common when it has the "good of all people and of the whole person" as its aim. If vaccines are required for all children in school and daycare for their protection and safety, then

exemptions for those who object to vaccines for their children's protection and safety must also be allowed. Otherwise, informed consent is a joke.

In the event of a pandemic, people should be (and by law are allowed) given the choice to take quarantine over forced vaccination. The government's reaction to a pandemic would be the equivalent of a military draft. When there is no other option and the safety of all is on the line, only then does the government have the right to make decisions that encroach upon the God-given rights of others. Always keeping in mind to do only what is absolutely necessary and only for the time necessary. This safeguards subsidiarity which in turn safeguards the common good.

You can make the decision to not allow this bill out of committee or you can fairly let it have its day in our legislative system. You can vote against it and think that you are just in doing so or you can listen to parents who have the right to make these decisions for their children without government intervention. You can listen to those who tell you that this is for the good of all and ignore those in the medical community who say that's not true. The truth is that all vaccines are not necessary, safe, or effective leaving questions to be asked and answers to be found. The question here today is who do you think has the responsibility and the right to ask those questions and then act accordingly. In my family, it is my husband and I. It used to be that this was the norm. Now, in the era of intrusive government and special interest groups know better than the average person, it is the exception for families to have the freedom to make their own decisions. I am asking nicely, but firmly, that you allow it to once again be the rule in Kansas and please allow parents to parent and not be forced to turn that right over to you. Please let this bill go out to the House for a vote.