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Hi, my name is Beth Hein. I am a voter in Hillsboro, Marion County.

Please support HB 2094 for a Conscientious Exemption to state-mandated vaccinations.

In November, I was invited to a "Kansans For Vaccine Rights" meeting. I was very impressed with the information that was given, the forethought and documentation that has been put into this bill, and the simplicity of it. While this bill does not set out to prove whether vaccinations are "good" or "bad", it does provide the opportunity for parents to make informed independent vaccination decisions for themselves and their families without risk of penalty or discrimination. As a parent and grandparent, I have seen a few of the negative effects of vaccinations. If I had known more about vaccinations when my children were babies, I might have made some different choices. This bill will do that for parents.

Of our 50 states, 19 states have passed a conscientious exemption. In those states there has been no relationship between the reported exemptions and reported incidence of disease. From the data on these 19 states, exemption rates are low and vaccination participation remains high, as the majority of parents continue to vaccinate.

While there are a host of reasons that parents might choose not to vaccinate, the three basic reasons are: 1-Valid safety concerns; 2-Morally opposed to vaccines, especially those produced in aborted-fetal cell lines, or targeted at sexually transmitted diseases; 3-They choose to approach health from a natural perspective.

At this time, vaccinations are the only state-mandated medical procedure. This mandate can affect whether or not children can enter daycares and schools. However, if parents are given the opportunity to research information and work with their physicians to make an informed decision about whether or not to vaccinate their children, then they won't have to choose between vaccinations and an education for their child.

Please consider supporting this bill. It is not an "anti-vaccine" bill, but rather expands parents' rights to make an informed, conscientious decision about what is best for their children.

Thank you,

Beth Hein