

I am writing in opposition to HB 2205. I have several oppositions to this bill.

The first is that this vaccine is not needed for school age children due to the fact that the disease is not very contagious. You cannot catch *Neisseria meningococcal* simply by standing next to someone who has it. You won't catch it from someone coughing near you. By the time a child becomes a teenager, most develop natural antibodies.

The second reason is that the incidence of invasive meningococcal disease in Kansas is very low. According to the CDC there were only five cases in 2015 and five cases in 2016.

That leads me to my third opposition. The benefits do not outweigh the risks of the vaccine itself. This vaccine is already available and it should be left up to the family to decide, as they will have to deal with any potential vaccine side effects and injuries.

The current meningococcal vaccine does not inoculate against all strains of the disease. And there are cases where the vaccine has failed even when it was matched to the correct strain. With so few cases it just doesn't make sense to mandate this vaccine for the ages of 11 and 16.

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