

March 14, 2017

Chairperson Vickie Schmidt
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
State Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas

Re: HB 2205

My name is Debra Mize. I am a resident of Overland Park and a co-leader of the Kansas City Chapter of the Weston A. Price Foundation that includes members who reside in eastern Kansas. The Foundation is dedicated to promoting the development of a healthy immune system through nutrition and seeks to lessen the reliance on vaccinations given the risks associated with vaccines.

We oppose HB 2205 and would ask the committee to consider the following points:

House Bill 2205 seeks to mandate the meningitis vaccine to all Kansas school children between the ages of 11 through 16. According to the Kansas Health Department, five Kansans each year contract meningitis. Of these, the National Meningitis Association estimates that 21% of persons ages 11 through 24 contract the disease. Based on these statistics, one Kansan in this age group contracts meningitis yearly. However, the bill before this committee addresses children in the age group 11 through 16, not 11 through 24. Based on these statistics it is reasonable to conclude that the number of persons contracting the disease in this targeted group would be substantially less than one person per year. Is this the critical legislation that demands mandatory vaccination for our 11 to 16 year olds while subjecting them to vaccine related danger?

The proposed bill mandates "vaccinations for meningitis" to the group mentioned. No distinction is made as to which of the many recognized strains of meningitis is addressed. Is more than one vaccination, exclusive of boosters, being mandated? Is the use of the plural term "vaccinations" referencing a single vaccination and booster or multiple vaccinations for different strains of the disease?

Costs for the meningitis vaccine are estimated at between \$100 and \$300, depending upon the provider. This amount does not include the required booster and, of course, does not include vaccinations for multiple strains of meningitis. Will the committee consider this additional cost to our Kansas families?

The risks associated with vaccinations are real as evidenced by the billions of dollars that have been paid by the U.S Court of Federal Claims. If you have known a parent whose child has been permanently disabled from vaccines you know that they are blaming themselves for having allowed the vaccination in the first place. Is this a risk we should be taking in this situation?