

March 12, 2017

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

Re: HB 2205

As a mom of two teenage boys, I have spent years reading and researching what we put in our bodies, what we put on our skin and what we allow in our environment in an effort to maintain and even improve our health. HB 2205 is a bill that would require 2 meningitis vaccines for children 11-16. I am not in favor of another government mandated vaccine for the following reasons...

1. The bacterial meningitis that it protects against is relatively rare. In the last 10 years, there have been 5 deaths due to bacterial meningitis in the state of Kansas. There are many other safer, less expensive ways to lower death rates than to mandate another vaccine. While sad that there have been 5 lives lost, we have to consider the cost-benefit to increasing the vaccine schedule. In contrast to bacterial meningitis, the most common type of meningitis is viral, and most patients recover on their own even without treatment. <https://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/viral.html>.
2. Vaccine package inserts warn of the risk of brain damage, life-threatening allergy, and death and no one knows in advance whom a vaccine will harm. It is immoral to force a person to inject a pharmaceutical product into their body, when that product could injure or kill them. Opt-options need to be available.
3. The US Supreme Court recognizes vaccines to be "unavoidably unsafe" and to cause injury and death in some recipients. The US Government has paid out more than \$3 billion to the victims of vaccine injury. Hundreds of thousands have reported an adverse reaction to vaccination to VAERS. <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/ensuringsafety/monitoring/vaers/>.
4. Vaccine makers and the healthcare providers who administer them bear zero liability for vaccine injuries and deaths. The vaccine manufacturers reap all the profits from vaccine mandates, without having to pay for any of the injuries or harm. The Vaccine Court is very difficult to navigate. Very few people have the money, ability or the time to pursue their case or that of their child.
5. There are numerous doctors, practitioners and researchers that are strongly against vaccines but they know that speaking out will be a career-ending choice. They will lose their license, research funding, stature, etc because the AMA and large pharmaceutical companies see to it that they are not opposed.

6. Meningococcal vaccine is expensive. In fact, it is one of the most expensive vaccines on the U.S. market, costing an average of \$115 per shot in private pediatrician's offices and an average of \$78 per shot through the federally subsidized Vaccines for Children program. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/index.html>

7. In the past 5 years, drug makers have paid the US Government 19.2 billion in criminal and civil FRAUD penalties. Skepticism of the pharmaceutical industry is well deserved.

<http://www.fiercepharma.com/regulatory/pharma-shelled-out-3-75b-fraud-penalties-record-setting-year-feds-say>

I would urge you to seriously consider the effects of this bill. On the surface, it might sound like a noble idea to protect Kansas children. However, there are serious concerns that should be addressed.

If you would like to learn more, I would strongly encourage a few resources (many more exist!)

Documentaries: Vaxxed, <http://vaxxedthemovie.com/watch/>,

The Greater Good <http://www.greatergoodmovie.org>

Video series: <http://www.vaccinesrevealed.com>

Websites: <http://drtenpenny.com>, <http://vaccines.mercola.com>

Book: What Your Doctor May NOT Tell You About Children's Vaccines

Thank you for your time and for considering the significance of adding one more vaccine to the long list children already receive.

Melissa McDonald

Paola, Kansas