

February 11, 2020

SPEAKER

Re: HB 2601

Representative Steve Huebert, Chairman of the Education Committee,

Thank you for hearing the testimonies today and allowing citizens to remain a part of the legislative process.

I'm here today a concerned, but hopeful, citizen. As a mother of two young boys, ages 1 and 2, I am concerned about the overstepping of the legislative process by Kansas Department of Health and Environment in mandating the meningitis and hepatitis A vaccines last year. How can a rational citizen believe that their government has their family's best interest in mind when an unelected official has the power to mandate a medical product with known side effects, and that official's agency is a co-affiliate alongside major vaccine manufacturers to Immunize Kansas Coalition?

Chairman Huebert's proposed amendments bring me hope. As mentioned, I have two young sons, both of whom have robust immune systems and are completely unvaccinated. Unlike most of the children in this country they have not had any ear infections, antibiotics, or even illnesses requiring a doctor visit. Our family doctor supports our choice to not vaccinate, so I question: why should one unelected official have a say in the health of my children?

If the potential for conflicts of interest and the bypassing of our rights as citizens of a free and democratic nation weren't reason enough to be concerned, let's talk about the science.

At this point maybe you've discounted what I have to say because you believe I'm "anti-science". I hear people saying "the science is settled" and "vaccines are safe and effective" but there has been zero safety studies on the current vaccine schedule. The reality is that there has never been a double blind inert placebo study on the current schedule. We can all find studies on individual vaccines to fit our beliefs but they are sub-par to what the scientific community considers the gold standard, which again is the double blind placebo study. That's not sound science. Until such a study has been done, no one can say, in confidence, that vaccines are safe and effective for everyone.

Next let's talk about how some vaccines shed. Maybe you've discounted what I have to say because you believe that I'm putting the greater population at risk by not having my sons vaccinated. But are you aware that several vaccines, including the MMR, chickenpox, and rotavirus, are live virus vaccines? According to the manufacturers the virus is present in the nose and throat for 7-28 days post-vaccination. Which is explains why reports have said that some of the so-called outbreaks we are seeing today are among vaccinated populations.

If vaccines were truly safe and effective everyone would line their children and themselves up to receive them, but instead we are seeing mandates put in place by agencies and officials with possible conflicts of interest. This is not democracy. We chose to settle in Kansas last year after my husband served seven years as an Officer in the Marine Corps because Kansas still supports parental rights and family values. If these mandates continue, I will be forced to keep my children out of your public schools, as so many other families are doing. I stand in support of Chairman Huebert's proposed amendment.

Respectfully,
Jeri Ann Mills
Lawrence, KS