

February 10, 2020

Dear Education Committee Members,

I am a mom of 5. When I had my first son I felt very strongly about the benefits of vaccines. I had been told that the science was settled and believed them to be safe and effective. I had every intention of following the schedule my doctor recommended and was proud that I was not only protecting my child but also the immune compromised.

At my sons 2 month checkup he received all the recommended vaccines which I was a little surprised at how many but figured it must be ok. Shortly after those vaccines my son broke out with terrible eczema. We were prescribed a steroid cream but everything the doctor recommended that we tried didn't help. I continued to vaccinate him according to the schedule and at my doctor's recommendation despite his terrible eczema. With each set his skin only got worse to the point of being the worst case our doctor had ever seen.

With my second son I hadn't put 2 and 2 together yet and continued to feel it was my duty to vaccinate my children. After my sons 2 month vaccines he developed severe eczema. It got worse after his 4 month vaccines, as well, just like my first son. At his 6 month appointment I felt my gut telling me that something was wrong, that I shouldn't continue vaccinating. I talked to my doctor about the possibility of a delayed schedule and he didn't recommend it so I went ahead and went through with his 6 month shots which included one shot in each leg and one in each arm. I went home feeling sick to my stomach and like I had failed my children. My second sons eczema got even worse than my first son. Once again we tried everything my doctor recommended and even an allergist. Nothing helped.

The next several years continued to be a nightmare for us. My second son would wake up at night screaming because he had been scratching himself to the point of bleeding. This was an every night occurrence for 4 years straight. It wasn't worth it. This was like living with a terrible disease. It stole my sons childhood. He had to wear pajamas and socks on his hands for the first 4 years of his life.

I share this with you because I would like to have the choice as to whether or not I should vaccinate my children. Vaccines are not safe for everyone and I feel very strongly that the parents should be able to listen to their gut instincts when it comes to our children. Thank you so much for reading my story.

I support HB 2601.

Julia  
Goodland, Kansas