

February 11, 2020

Dear Chairman Huebert and Members of the Education Committee,

I am writing in support of HB2601. As a mother and a teacher, I believe every child has the right to an education. An overzealous health department, in conjunction with the Immunize Kansas Coalition (IKC), should not be given unlimited power to choose which children have the right to an education. Every medical intervention carries a risk. For this reason, the decision to add any vaccine to the ever increasing schedule must be weighed carefully. Because the Kansas Department of Health is clearly bypassing the legislature to mandate vaccines for diseases that were well controlled without a mandate (Hep A and Meningitis ACWY), it is unwise to believe they will give careful thought to any new additions to the vaccine schedule. The IKC's only goal is to increase vaccine uptake. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment will mandate every vaccine the IKC recommends. Parents understand this. They have come to realize a goal, a percentage, is far more important to the KDHE and the IKC than the education and future of Kansas children.

I urged support and passage of HB2601.

Thank you,

Tiffany Leon

Topeka, Kansas