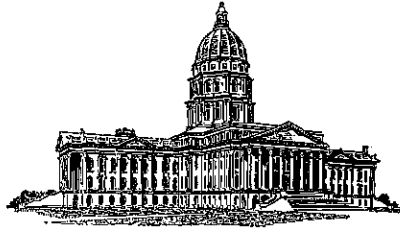


STATE OF KANSAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612  
(785) 296-8621  
john.eplee@house.ks.gov

163 DEER RUN  
ATCHISON, KANSAS 66002



JOHN R. EPLEE, MD  
63RD DISTRICT

**HB 2601**

Thank you Chairman Huebert and esteemed members of the House Education Committee. I rise to speak in opposition of HB2601.

The testimony we have heard is quite interesting today. It is the embodiment of factual information manipulated in methods to be presented to you today as the real answers and the real reasons. It makes me sad, but here we go.

We are here today because of a bill requesting that the meningitis, MCV-4 vaccine be a mandatory vaccine through K.D.H.E. in 2017. It passed easily in the House with over 90 yes votes – but stalled in the Senate Health & Welfare Committee due in part to some of the folks in this room. Then this issue of making the meningitis vaccine, MCV-4 a required vaccine for adolescents in Kansas was taken up by K.D.H.E. officials – Dr. Greg Lakin & Secretary Jeff Anderson under the Brownback and Colyer Administration and was ultimately made a required vaccine through the vaccine mandate authority of K.D.H.E. in current law—the point at issue today. This is the same authority utilized by the Secretary of K.D.H.E. to require all vaccines for infants and toddlers in the State of KS. This ‘requirement’ went through the due process hearing procedure this summer. Despite the strident protests of individuals in this room, it was approved, along with Hepatitis A. Both vaccines are now part of the required vaccines in the State of KS. Folks in this room are upset because they felt they weren’t listened to—no one heard them. I was there and I heard them. Both the C.D.C – Center for Disease Control and the A.C.I.P. – Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice strongly recommended both of these now “required vaccines”. 36 other states including Missouri already require these vaccines, through similar authority. The current Secretary – Dr. Lee Norman (fellow Family Physician) agreed with the supportive testimony given at the hearing, and the C.D.C./A.C.I.P. and both the meningitis and Hep A are required vaccines.

So, here are my facts – not from the internet and not from predatory journals. These are my facts because of who I am and what I do for a living (for 42 years).

1. Vaccinations are the second biggest breakthrough for saving lives and protecting public health through modern medicine. The first is clean drinking water.
2. Vaccines are safer now than at any time in the history of medicine. I occasionally see local reactions to shots and have seen illness for 1-3 days following immunizations. I know I have ordered over 40,000 immunizations in my career. I have seen 3 patients die of various forms of meningitis in the distant past. I have seen >10 patients survive meningitis only to be left with permanent defects – lost fingers, toes, hearing loss, visual loss and dense cognitive impairment. In the remote past I have seen encephalitis due to measles and orchitis due to mumps. I have witnessed one death due to tetanus. All these issues could have been

prevented through vaccines.

3. Vaccines are carefully studied for many years before they are commercially available. There is on going Q.A. on all vaccines by the manufacturers. They cannot go through double blind placebo-control studies.

4. Vaccines are not manufactured from aborted fetuses. They were 50 years ago – but not since then. Vaccinations utilize recombinant DNA technology.

5. Babies get more aluminum when breast feeding then they do all their injections.

6. Babies have more heavy metal exposure when they lick the handle on a grocery cart than all their vaccinations. Adjuvants are necessary to make vaccines effective.

7. VAERS – Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System exists because of a bad vaccine in 1986 called the D.P.T. This was set up by the Federal Government at that time to protect the only manufacturer that made it from going out of business and the horrible public health impact if we could not vaccinate for whooping cough, tetanus, or diptheria. Historically this reporting system has become the repository of all questionable bad outcomes. There are many. We now have a new vaccine called TDaP.

8. Vaccines do not cause Autism. This has been studied repeatedly and no causality has ever been established. This belief was raised by Andrew Wakefield in 1996 in the Medical Journal – “The Lancet”. It was proven that he falsified information and subsequently lost his liscense in England. He currently lives in Arizona and is the spokesperson for the vaccine hesitant community.

9. I believe the issue of the “vaccine vulnerable” is not nearly resolved. A very small segment of our population may be gene carriers that put them at risk of an inability to detoxify certain materials – including vaccines. I am hoping to see more peer review material on this subject soon from C.D.C., N.I.H., etc.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I am very appreciative of this opportunity.