

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

02/17/2022

PROPONENT of HB 2498

Madam Chair Landwehr and the House Committee on Health and Human Services:

I am writing in support of HB 2498. I believe that the KDHE should NOT have unilateral authority to make medical decisions for my family.

I would also suggest changing the language of the religious exemption to be in line with the language from the special session. The exemption is in line with one's sincerely held religious beliefs as outlined in Title VII of the EEOC. As it reads now, it asks for "a written statement signed by one parent or guardian that the child is an adherent of a religious denomination whose religious teachings are opposed to such tests or inoculations."

I am concerned that Kansas is headed in the direction of New York and California, where the government has more say in children's medical decisions than parents and doctors. Please consider this issue carefully. Do we as citizens want to give up control of our bodies? Who must live with the consequences of that decision?

Sincerely,
Melissa Neville
Manhattan, Riley County, Kansas
House District 66