



KANSAS ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

CARING FOR KANSANS

Testimony: HB 2498 (written only)
House Health & Human Services Committee
February 21, 2022
By: Jennifer Bacani McKenney, MD, FAAFP, President

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony opposing HB 2498, on behalf of the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFP). In addition to serving as KAFP president this year, I am a practicing family physician and local health officer in rural southeast Kansas. The KAFP represents nearly 2,000 family physicians, resident physicians, and medical students across our state. Quality health care and health outcomes for our patients guide our public policy work.

The Academy has a long-held position of supporting vaccinations as a *proven and effective strategy for preventing and controlling contagious disease spread*. Further, we believe the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to be the most qualified state entity to make vaccination recommendations.

HB 2498 risks Kansas' ability to respond to the best scientific recommendations for immunizations, as set forth by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to protect our children from vaccine-preventable diseases. It also undermines KDHE's mission, which is to *protect and improve the health and environment of all Kansans*.

The current KDHE administrative process allows a *timely, evidence-based* response to changes in ACIP recommendations, both to add *and* remove vaccines from the required vaccinations list. These decisions are made only when sufficient data and evidence demonstrate both their need and their safety.

The KAFP opposes this bill and continues to support retaining the flexibility and authority of the KDHE Secretary to be responsive to new vaccines recommended by the ACIP as part of the routine child and adolescent vaccination schedule. The current process offers the best protection for Kansas children and adolescents.

Thank you again for this opportunity to submit comments on behalf of the KAFP. We appreciate your thoughtful examination of all matters regarding the health and safety of Kansans.

About Kansas Academy of Family Physicians:

KAFP represents nearly 2,000 active, resident, student and life members across the state. Our member physicians are vibrant and trusted members of their communities and are dedicated to creating a healthier Kansas. Quality health care and health outcomes for our patients guide our public policy work. As family physicians, we see people of all ages, both men and women, and we work with almost every type of ailment and illness that afflict our patients.