



Testimony of the **Kansas Public Health Association** to the
Kansas House Committee on Commerce
Opponent for SB 213 • **February 25, 2021**

Chairman Olsen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 213. This bill would prohibit an employer from taking action against employees who decide to receive or not receive any vaccinations. As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report: “All adults need immunizations to help them prevent getting and spreading serious diseases that could result in poor health, missed work, medical bills, and not being able to care for family.”ⁱ Furthermore, some classes of workers, particularly those in health care settings, are at increased risk for exposure to and transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has an extensive guideⁱⁱ for health care professionals (HCP) including but not limited to HCP in acute-care hospitals; long-term--care facilities (e.g., nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities); physician's offices; rehabilitation centers; urgent care centers, and outpatient clinics as well as to persons who provide home health care and emergency medical services.

Vaccination programs for health care workers are an essential component of comprehensive infection prevention and control programs, which are designed to improve patient safety and quality of care. While some voluntary vaccination programs, when accompanied with strong institutional leadership, support and education, have been effective, mandatory policies are the most effective at improving vaccination rates. Leading professional and scientific organizations, including the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America and the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society support health care employer policies that require documentation of immunity or vaccination.ⁱⁱⁱ These advisory committees include some of the best scientific minds and the science leads to guidance for best practices to protect patients, health care workers and the community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandon Skidmore, President
Kansas Public Health Association

KPHA is a professional association for Kansas public health practitioners, professionals, and advocates. As a voice for public health, KPHA provides a forum for individuals and organizations to work collectively to assure conditions in which Kansans' lives will be healthy. *(This position reflects the collective position of association members through the action of the Board of Directors and may not necessarily reflect the views of each KPHA member's employer.)*

ⁱ CDC, What Vaccines Are Recommended for You, <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/index.html>

ⁱⁱ CDC, *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, Immunization of Health-Care Personnel: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) accessed at <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6007a1.htm>

ⁱⁱⁱ Infectious Disease Society of America. Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), and the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS) Joint Policy Statement on Mandatory Immunization of Health Care Personnel According to the ACIP-Recommended Vaccine Schedule. Accessed at https://www.idsociety.org/globalassets/idsa/policy--advocacy/current_topics_and_issues/immunizations_and_vaccines/health_care_worker_immunization/statements/idsa-policy-statement-on-mandatory-immunization-of-health-care-personnel-pdf