

Bill SB541

Good morning, honorable Senators. My name is Gavin Wedel from Mcpherson, KS.

Today I am here to tell you a story about an incident that happened to me on September 10, 2020.

I had been in a mask since school started and I HATED IT! When I got to school that morning everything was normal. Then during second hour, I knew that something wasn't right. I just couldn't figure out what it was. Roughly 30-35 minutes into class I woke up on the ground looking up at one of my coaches, nurse, principal, and my dad. I was unconscious but here is how the story goes...

I was sitting at my desk and all of the sudden I kicked my friend in the back. At the same time he turned to ask why I kicked him, my teacher was telling me to stop playing around. Then from across the room another classmate yelled, "He is having a seizure!" My teacher ran out of the room leaving me seizing with no adults, only students who did not know what to do. I was left banging my head repeatedly on the desk, then slid out of my chair onto the floor where I continued to bang my head. There was blood everywhere! While the teacher was out of the room a classmate ran to get help for me. He ran into my coach who FINALLY took the mask off my face that had been holding in the spit and foam causing me to aspirate which could have led to my death. My coach stayed with me until my parents, the school nurse, and my teacher arrived. After hearing all the things that happened to me I started asking myself many questions about my school. Am I safe? Do they really care about me? Can I trust them? I am mad that I was humiliated in front of the entire school as they were put on a soft lockdown because of my situation that should have been prevented!

Most importantly, no one should be discriminated against for not wearing a mask or not being vaccinated. Schools should be obligated to recognize all exemptions, particularly those

requested by the parent. A parent knows their child's medical history and should be able to make decisions for their child.

Lastly, I would like to mention the fact that seizure training is not provided in our schools. I am more likely to die from a seizure than from covid. If my teacher had been provided with training she would have known what to do and I would have sustained far less injuries. It took much longer for me to recover from this seizure than others. I think it's time that the schools start thinking about what is in the best interest of the kids instead of mandating masks and vaccines, in spite of what the CDC says.

Thank you for giving me this time to talk to you about my concerns and share my story. I trust that my experience will create positive change in the near future.