

**The Honorable Richard Hildebrandt, Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare  
Statehouse, Room 142-S  
Topeka, Kansas 66612**

Regarding: SB 295 – County Authority on COVID-19 Vaccinations

Mr. Chairman, Vice Chairwoman and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this proponent testimony in support of Senate Bill 295. My name is Mike Brown and I am a former Johnson County Commissioner. Having served 4 years in this capacity gives me a unique perspective regarding the safe, fast and dependable implementation of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Government, no matter which level being discussed, is always best when it's closest to the citizens who own that government and in this case that again rings true. As our state continues to struggle to secure vaccines and other critical supplies from the federal government, Johnson County Government was able to go directly to the United States Treasury window and collect our portion (along with Sedgwick County) of the Cares Act funding. This "cut out the middle man" approach allowed Johnson County Government to put the money quickly and directly to use in securing our own supplies such as masks, gloves, face shields, gowns, testing supplies, laboratory testing services and myriad of other important and critical supplies. While our state struggled continuously over the last 12 months to secure N95 masks, gloves and other basic but critical safety supplies, Johnson County was building a stockpile in a freshly secured storage facility that was solely managed and distributed by Johnson County Government. Too, Sedgwick and other Kansas counties used their allocated separate funds to pursue the objectives of taking care of and protecting its local citizens.

These examples highlight the efficiency and effectiveness of local government closest to the people versus the flawed idea that centralized big government should be handling this critical and important process.

Without doubt, and for these reasons , each county should handle its own vaccine distribution.

For these reasons I urge this Committee and the broader Kansas Senate's support of SB 295 allowing the government closest to the people, Kansas' counties, to handle vaccine distribution in our great state.