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Opposition Testimony SB 212

Thank you Chairman Hildebrand, Vice-chair Gossage, and ranking D Petty and members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee and allowing me to speak with you in strong opposition of SB 212.

If ever there was a solution looking for a problem—it is this bill. There is no need for this bill despite the testimony you just heard. In the vaccination world we are truly victims of our success. When you consider all the many diseases we no longer see or deal with because of vaccinations, the only problem is that immunizations work TOO WELL. I think many of us have completely forgotten why we give vaccines. Now with SARS CoV-2 infection (pandemic) and rollout of the m-RNA vaccines, we have a new focus and hope to recover from yet another catastrophic illness that has killed at last count over 540,000 Americans.

I really am astonished as to why we are even here today to discuss treatments that are best left in the educated and skilled hands of scientists and epidemiologists. These experts continue to deliver hope and protection for Public Health. And need I remind you of your own committee title—Public Health and Welfare. Your charge is not to protect your individual rights here, but to provide guidance to Public Health and Welfare of all Kansans.

As a Family Physician, I have more experience with vaccinations than anyone here in this Capitol. I have been responsible for ordering tens of thousands of vaccinations spanning over 40 years. I have seen sore arms, anaphylactic reactions, even febrile seizures. But I have not seen one long term complication or certainly death due to immunizations. On the other hand, I have seen many patients die of vaccine preventable illness, because these biologicals had not been developed yet or they did not receive them on a timely basis. I am well versed on all the conspiracy theories and allegations of long term harm due to vaccines on the internet and alternative media sources. So here are the facts from my experience and the medical texts:

1. Immunizations are the **SECOND** biggest breakthrough for saving lives and protecting public health through true science and modern medicine. The first being clean drinking water. Our culture moving beyond this pandemic, is living proof that vaccinations work very well and give us hope for the future. This is irrefutable.

2. Vaccines are safer and more effective now than at any time in the history of medicine. All vaccines do go through standard phase 1 through phase 3 trials to clearly prove efficacy and safety—just like all 3 of the approved Covid 19 vaccinations. After 60 million vaccinations in the US—we have seen only sore arms, 71 anaphylactic reactions, and no deaths. **THESE ARE NOT EXPERIMENTAL VACCINES, and they work!**

3. The new m-RNA vaccines are not made from any fetal cell lines. J&J's vaccine was derived initially from human fetal cells from 1985 (36 years ago). Only 2 of the current vaccines on the childhood schedule can even be traced to fetal cells from over 40 years ago. The benefits far outweigh the religious and philosophical concerns.

4. Infants do not have significant aluminum or heavy metal exposure in the current vaccine schedule. Infants do not have Thimerosal exposure to vaccinations today.

5. Vaccine manufacturers do enjoy some liability protections because of VAERS—Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. This is because of a bad vaccine 35 years ago called the DPT. It was taken off the market, this law was passed, and this fund established. This federally mandated fund does allow for recovery from patients with bad vaccine outcomes. A new vaccine was developed to replace the DPT called the DTaP. Just like I have liability protections to practice medicine in Kansas along with nurses, etc., we have liability protections for vaccine producers. It's that simple.

6. We have so many more vaccines than 30 years ago because medicine has evolved in the science and determined it is far better to be pre-emptive with disease rather than reactive. Simply put it is cost effective and saves lives. This is called preventative medicine. No, natural infection is not better than vaccine protected immunity. A perfect example is what we are seeing with Covid-19 vaccinations today with over 40% of patients with long term sequelae to The Covid-19 infection (not immunization) including chronic lung disease, chronic renal disease, cognitive decline, etc. Many suffer with long hauler's syndrome. It is not good.

7. Vaccines do NOT cause autism. This has been studied in over 40 peer reviewed studies and causality cannot be established. This belief was raised by Andrew Wakefield in 1996 in the medical journal "The Lancet". It was subsequently proven that he falsified his data and as a result lost his medical license in Great Britain. He currently lives in Arizona and is a spokesman for the vaccine hesitant community.

8. Vaccine science is far better left in the capable hands of scientists and experts rather than legislators. The secretary of KDHE is fully capable of making the right timely decisions about which immunizations should be on the required list for infants and teenagers, and all Kansans. There is no problem here, looking for this misguided solution.

Thank you committee,

John R Eplee, MD, FAFP, District Representative #63