

3-20-2021
KS Legislators
Topeka, KS
RE: In support of SB 212

To Whom It May Concern:

I am strongly in favor of SB 212.

I am a mother of three grown children and about to become a grandmother. Raising three boys has been a challenge since one was born with a neurological condition. However, it became more challenging after my son with the neurological condition developed a seizure disorder within an hour of receiving a Dtap shot when he was hospitalized with an injury to his hand. He has been on seizure medication ever since. He had never had seizures prior to this incident despite his risk of them for 17 years. It took three years to find a medication that could control his seizures. I discovered after doing some research, that the FDA is aware that developing seizures is a potential risk with this particular vaccine.

When we finally got his seizures stable, his younger brothers were at a well child visit prior to starting high school. The doctor recommended the meningitis vaccine, which I reluctantly allowed due to the previous experience listed above. Then, within 72 hours my oldest son was hospitalized with symptoms of meningitis, having uncontrolled seizures. Again, doing my research after the fact, I discovered on the FDA package insert for meningitis there is a "theoretical" possibility that the vaccinated person could spread the infection to someone who has a weakened immune system. IF I had only known, I might have made a different choice, but I didn't. At the time, the meningitis vaccine was not required for high school and I don't think it should ever be required.

In a third but separate situation, I discovered again, after the fact, that the Hepatitis B vaccine has been known to increase the risk of developing arthritis. I chose to take this vaccine because of my particular job and was informed that the only side effect would be soreness at the injection site. However, within 3 years I was seeking medical assistance at the age of 30 from an orthopedic doctor for severe arthritis. He informed me, "Your joints looked like a 60 year old" and wanted to know what I had been doing to myself. Again, if I had been fully informed of the risk that arthritis was one

of the potential side effects, I might have made a different choice because there is a family history of arthritis.

While, I am fine with vaccines being available to people who want to get them, I am vehemently opposed to any agency dictating any vaccine even for public safety. The primary issue is, no one is taking responsibility for living with the consequences of my decision to vaccinate myself or my children but me. I have to live with the arthritis for the rest of my life. I have to live with my son's seizure disorder for the rest of his life. I cannot receive any compensation or due process due to the laws put in place by the National Childhood Vaccine Act of 1986 because I didn't know it existed until long after these issues occurred.

Again, if people want to seek a vaccination that is fine. However, no one can predict what the outcome will be of taking this biological treatment for each individual person. No governing agency takes responsibility. All the risk and the responsibility fall on the person choosing to take a vaccination. No one has the right to force or demand someone else take the risk for the *potential* safety of the greater good. This safety is not guaranteed by anyone. It is the perception of safety. Just because someone actually gets a particular vaccine, it is not automatic that their individual immune system actually does what the vaccine intended, but I won't get into that today.

Bodily autonomy is one of the most basic God given freedoms. This is at the heart of our US Constitutional rights as American citizens; the right to life, *liberty* and the pursuit of happiness. In addition, the first amendment covers my religious freedoms, which for me includes what kind of medical treatment I seek for my physical and spiritual well being. If a governing agency is telling me what I must or must not do with my body, that violates the essence of liberty and my God given right as an American citizen.

Respectfully submitted:

Dee Steinbach
Lawrence, KS