

In Support of SB 212

March 18th, 2021

Jerri Beesley

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Senate District 40

Chairman Hilderbrand and the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Members,

I am writing in support of SB 212. Over the last year our country and state have been met with many unexpected trials and confronted with issues not previously seen. As I write there continues to be more research done on the current COVID-19 outbreak. Presently, a big topic is the vaccines available and how to move forward in both work, school, and public life with safety in mind.

Since there are many in healthcare that differ on their recommendations, adding vaccines to a schedule, especially for children, should be met with extreme caution and care. I believe the responsibility and authority to add vaccines to the schedule should not be left to the KDHE's Secretary of Health. Such power should be placed in the hands of our collective body of elected legislators. Many have witnessed in 2020 how the KDHE was not trustworthy with presenting information to the public. If we don't move forward with SB 212 it could be placing our children under extreme risk. As with any health decision, there is not a one-size-fits all when it comes to doing what is best for kids. Both the benefits and risks need to be evaluated.

I believe it takes multiple minds working towards the betterment, health, and protection of our citizens in Kansas, most importantly the children who are the future. As a mother, I make decisions every day for what is best for my kids, keeping their health, safety, and well-being as a top priority. This is why I strongly support SB 212, as it will allow Kansans a voice in health choices, especially involving our children.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 212.

Jerri Beesley