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March 19, 2021

Chairman Richard Hilderbrand  
Senate Health and Welfare Committee  
Kansas State Capitol  
10<sup>th</sup> and Jackson, Room 546S  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: SB 212 Oral (in person) and written testimony

Dear Chairman Hilderbrand:

I operate a law practice in Overland Park. I want to thank the committee for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Kansans for Health Freedom in support of SB212.

SB212 has one simple purpose: to prevent the KDHE from unilaterally mandating additional vaccines for Kansas children. Under K.S.A. 72-6262, the Secretary of Health can mandate any vaccine he deems necessary for our children through a change in the Kansas Regulations. This process has resulted in the requirement of approximately 70 vaccine doses for Kansas children.

We must be clear that the number of vaccines required for school attendance is not decreased under this amendment. However, given the political nature health care decisions have taken, no further mandate requests should be left solely to one political appointee. This is illustrated by the vaccines that the secretary mandated in the last few years.

In 2017, proponents of a meningitis vaccine requested that the secretary add this vaccine to the mandatory list. The secretary at the time found that mandating such a vaccine was not necessary and denied this request. The proponents then sought legislation to accomplish this goal. This senate committee considered their bill and refused to pass it.

Thereafter, in 2019, after the legislature adjourned for the session, the secretary added the meningitis vaccine to the list of mandatory vaccines. He also added the Hepatitis A vaccine. What had changed? A new Secretary of Health.

KSHF has no doubt that the addition of new vaccines is likely to occur in the near future, especially one for Covid-19. Already there has been emergency approval for Covid-19 vaccines

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to be given to youth as young as 16 and trials are well underway for children as young as 6 months. Can there be any doubt that approvals for all of our school children is in our immediate future, likely just in time for the 2021-2022 school year?

We urge this committee to adopt SB212 so that the decision to add a Covid-19 mandate for our children will not be left solely in the hands of the KDHE. Kansas parents deserve a say in whether their school children, who have been shown to have little likelihood of suffering from Covid-19, should be required to take such a vaccine, especially one that has been so rushed through the approval process by an industry that is exempted from all liability for any ill effects caused to these children, either now or in the future.

Respectfully,  
William D. Mize