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November 10, 2021

Chairman Renee Erickson
Government Overreach and COVID-19 Mandates
Kansas State Capitol
10th and Jackson, Room 546S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: Proponent for Oral and Written Testimony in Support of Bill Draft 22RS2356

Dear Senator Erickson:

My name is Bill Mize from Louisburg. I operate a law practice in Overland Park and I am associated with Kansans for Health Freedom.

At the hearings held in late October, this committee heard from many Kansans who told you that countless employees were facing termination from their employment over their refusal to submit to a COVID-19 vaccine. You also were advised of the extensive efforts these employers were going through to deny these requests. The legislature has reacted to this situation with this proposed bill to address these actions to lessen the burden on the employees seeking a religious or a medical exemption. This is a welcome starting.

While there will be employees who will file religious or medical exemptions as to vaccines, especially, COVID-19 vaccines, the vast majority of employees will not be able to avail themselves of these exemptions and will therefore be subject to termination. However, many employees have studied these vaccines along the risks associated with them and they have developed profound objections to taking them. What can be done to help these employees so they can avoid termination?

It is suggested that these employees should also have an option to avoid termination for what they believe is a justified reason to decline a vaccine. An exception to the proposed statute that protects employees who object to the employer vaccine requirement based on sincerely held moral or philosophical beliefs should also be added to this bill so that these employees will be protected from unjustified termination.

Please support Bill Draft 22RS2356 with this addition.

Respectfully,
William D. Mize
Louisburg, 66053