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In Favor of 22RS2356  
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Committee Chair Erickson and Committee Members,

My name is Greg Short. I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify in-person on October 29<sup>th</sup> during the initial public hearing and again here today regarding this legislation. This issue is near and dear to my heart. I want to thank each of the committee members for taking up the cause of the people of the state of Kansas, for having this special committee, and for pressing for a special session of the full Kansas Legislature. It is too early to tell if you will have the numbers to call the special session. I pray you do. But let it be known to those in the legislature that are not here but watching this online or reading these testimonies. We the people of the state of Kansas ARE watching you. And in 2022, we will also be voting, and our memories will not fail us.

My testimony today is in support of 22RS2356.

I work for Kiewit Corp in Lenexa, KS and represent a group of approximately 115 employees, mostly unvaccinated, that are in agreement that the mandates from the federal government are out of line and can't be allowed to stand. While we know the courts are loaded up with lawsuits attempting to stop these mandates outright, we need the state of Kansas to pass legislation to protect its citizens in the event those lawsuits fail. And to be in front of this issue the next time the federal government escapes from the constitutional cage they are intended to be restrained by.

I've reviewed the proposed legislation and shared it with my colleagues, and we believe the intent is good and would expect it to pass legal challenges. One thing I would note, however, is that it falls short regarding protecting the rights of the citizen when it comes to a medical exemption. It is addressed in the bill, but it does not go far enough to define what the employers can and cannot do regarding accepting or denying a medical exemption.

Similar to how the federal government tread all over our right to freedom of religion when they handed out the probing list of 11 questions for our employers use in questioning and ostracizing our religious freedom, the federal government and CDC has passed down a list of questions to employers to define and limit what a company can and cannot consider an "acceptable" medical reason for not getting a vaccination, regardless of the opinion of their personal doctor. This is ridiculous. Who better knows what their patient needs than their personal doctor? My company full of engineers? I think not. Furthermore, the doctors, are being bullied by the various medical boards and group practices to not provide written exemptions unless they line up with the few items the CDC has pre-approved.

I would direct you to the October 30<sup>th</sup> in-person testimony of Randall Anstaett. If you want to review his testimony it can be found at 1:02:26 of the Committee mtg video. Mr. Anstaett testified he had open heart surgery in late 2020. Mr. Anstaett testified that he is pro-vaccine. He also testified that his doctors, including his cardiologist, recommended he NOT get vaccinated due to his condition. Fast forward to the last 60 days. Mr. Anstaett works for a defense contractor and therefore falls into the federal contractor mandate as well as the OSHA Emergency regulations. No problem, he just needs a medical exemption letter from his doctors. His doctors now tell him that they are NOT ABLE to provide him with an exemption letter, and one even stated that "his medical group doesn't allow them to provide exemptions".

I also have a co-worker in my group with a similar situation. She has an auto-immune disorder known as Lupus. Her doctor in early 2021 recommended that she not get the vaccine since due to not knowing how her body would tolerate it. Again, fast forward to the last 60 days and her doctor is now telling her that she is unable/not willing to provide a letter for fear of repercussions from the licensing board. Turns out she has a colleague that had provided an exemption for a patient with a similar issue and is now dealing with those consequences via an audit due to auto-immune diseases not being on the list of pre-approved CDC medical issues.

In summary, I recommend that you pass 22RS2356 but not before it is amended to remove the ability of the employer to disapprove a medical exemption request which is documented by a licensed physician. I also recommend that you draft additional legislation protecting those licensed physicians from reprisal by medical boards or medical groups for simply keeping their patient's medical interest in mind when considering a medical exemption request. The medical exemption must protect the Drs and nurses from Kansas Boards of Healing Arts and Nursing. The Boards must be instructed to allow their professionals to practice for their patients, allowing the use of therapeutics as well as the exemptions.

Thank you for your time.

