

Senate Health and Public Welfare Committee

SB 315

Proponent testimony

Dear Members of the Senate Health and Public Welfare Committee,

I urge you to support SB 315.

I have been in family practice in Overland Park for over 30 years. The amount of pain and suffering I have witnessed in my patients, including physical, psychological, and economic, in the past 3 years because of governmental overreach in healthcare has been unprecedented. Patients who did not want to receive the Covid vaccine were coerced by their employer, who was following the mandates set forth by governing agencies. When patients came to me for advice on exemptions, they were told it is difficult to get a religious exemption approved because the wording in the exemption request was written to trap them in an inconsistency. I personally had a similar experience in applying for endoscopy privileges at an endoscopy center in Shawnee Kansas. The form was complex, and asked why my belief prohibited me from taking the vaccine. That is none of their business, and this should not be permitted. A religious exemption only requires that the individual have a firmly held religious belief that participating in the medical procedure violates that belief. Period. We need clarity in our legislation regarding this process, so it is not abused by groups with an agenda to subvert our free will. During the pandemic our medical freedoms have been severely eroded, and we need to recapture them. SB 315 does that.

I would appreciate your support of SB 315

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Earl, DO

District 6