

Re: HB 2601

2/9/20

Dear Education Committee Members,

I have been a teacher in special education since 1990. I have seen a noticeable and dramatic increase in the severity and quantity of those with special needs. Ask any teacher that has been teaching as long as I, and they will attest to this fact. It is NOT that we have done a better job at identifying/diagnosing them. It's just simply, special needs students are more prevalent. We would know if a student was difficult to handle or had special needs regardless if they were labeled as such. My question, why does the significant rise in required vaccines correlate with the rise in special needs? This fact is undeniable. Since passage of the 1986 Act, the number of required pediatric vaccines has grown rapidly. In 1983, the CDC's childhood vaccine schedule included 11 injections of 4 vaccines. As of 2017, the CDC's childhood vaccine schedule includes 56 injections of 30 different vaccines. Are we better at identifying special needs or are there simply more special needs? I think the latter. Is there a causation between the more vaccines added to the schedule and the more special needs we're seeing? I would say it's cause for researching into. As a concerned educator, being in the field for 30 years plus, seeing more and more kids being identified, I am very adamant about seeking out all explanations why we are seeing more special needs children. More testing and research need to be done in this area instead of passing laws demanding our children have immunizations. You can choose to ignore parents concerns or choose to demand answers. That simply means stop mandating vaccines. We need solid, truthful answers. We demand independent studies be done absent of the pharmaceuticals/manufacturers influence. Billions have been paid out to injuries due to vaccination. Parents are talking about this. This elephant is not going away. We can no longer chalk this up as a coincidence. I am in support of the proposed legislation that will limit the power of the KDHE to mandate additional vaccines for children.

Sincerely,  
LaLayne Harwood  
Retired Special Ed. teacher  
Louisburg, KS