

Re: HB 2601

February 10, 2020

Dear Chairman Huebert and Education committee,

I have 4 children, 2 of which were injured by vaccinations. The two that are injured, are currently a junior and a freshman. They are both mostly straight A students and the younger of the two is in high school honors classes. Despite doing well in school, both of them suffer from a variety of immune and autoimmune conditions including asthma, eczema, Eosinophilic esophagitis, Eosinophilic gastritis, celiac, crohn's, ulcerative colitis, inability to mount a response to vaccines (vaccine non-responder) and more. As you can imagine, this list of ailments can make attendance and participation at school difficult. Through all this, they continue to do well in school.

Why do my children have these conditions? No other member of my or my husband's family is afflicted with immune and autoimmune issues. Our family doctor agrees, it was the vaccinations they received as infants. My son has small reactions with each set of vaccinations. We were told it was a "normal response." Screaming for hours and days, diarrhea 8-10 times per day, constant ear and lung infections, asthma, skin rashes and finally a regression at 18 months that took his speech and eye contact. These were "normal reactions" and we were told not to worry.

My daughter did not have a noticeable reaction until receiving her 6 month vaccines at 9 months old. She had a seizure in the doctor's office before we left that day. She would become developmentally delayed in speech and motor areas. She did not have intelligible speech until 3rd grade. She remained in speech through the schools and on an IEP until 8th grade.

Unfortunately, chronic illness has become the norm in our schools. Thirty years ago, there were no children with asthma. There were no signs on every classroom door stating that egg, peanut, banana or another food was not allowed into the classroom due to allergies. Most people did not even know what an epi pen was and they definitely were not trained in using one. That is not the case today. I work in the schools as a physical therapist. I am in and out of 6 different school districts and in over 20 different schools each week. I see kids every day that are chronically sick and have behavioral issues. I also see frustrated teachers that spend a large part of their day dealing with behavior issues instead of teaching.

What has changed? What has happened to our kids and our schools? Schools are supposed to be about learning, interacting, growing. Why do today's children suffer from chronic illnesses that 30 year ago were none existent? Have we replaced a week long rash and fever from chicken pox, measles and rubella that last a week for chronic diseases that our children will have to endure forever?

My children will have these autoimmune and immune issues forever. They now have an exemption from receiving any future vaccines. My other 2 children were not vaccinated. Our doctor agreed that to vaccinate them with the known history of my other 2 children would not be in their best interest. The KDHE at this time can add any vaccine to the schedule that they choose to. They have stated their intent to add the HPV vaccine. HPV is a sexually transmitted disease. It is not something that needs to be required for school attendance. The power to add vaccines to the current Kansas schedule should be made by our legislative body, not the KDHE.

Please support HB 2601 and give the power back to the Kansas legislature.

Andrea Jones  
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