

February 11, 2020

Re: HB 2601

Dear Education Committee Members,

As a mother, foster parent and adoptee mother, grandmother, former Registered nurse, elementary teacher and preschool owner, I am writing to ask that you support Representative Heurbert's bill HB 2601. I stand and believe in medical freedom for all.

I am unable to attend the hearing 2-13-20. I would like to share comments on my experience with medical choice.

Approximately 10 years ago working as a registered nurse, I assisted with setting up flu vaccine clinics at a health department and also administered flu vaccines. I watched numerous people come into the health department or call with side effects to report. Their reporting was handled with minimizing or being taken to a closed office where only one nurse was privy to any information documented. There were people, children included that had side effect concerns that I have always felt in my heart were ignored and discredited.

I have watched over the past few years, "vaccine mandates" or "suggested schedules" be presented in a manner that make parents believe they have no choice. As recent as 6 years ago, I was threatened to lose my job at the hospital if I refused the annual flu vaccine ("it was hospital policy"). In our own community, I know for a fact, families who choose to delay or not to be vaccinated are refused as patients at Pediatricians and Family Practice offices. Families are left with nowhere to receive medical care except emergency rooms. As a consumer, a mother, and professional, I have to ask why is bullying and discrimination tolerated in this arena?

I am no longer practicing as a medical professional, but speak to many young mothers in our church that tell me story after story of being pressured by physicians to have their children vaccinated. I hear stories of side effects being ignored and have spoken with families who live every day with the crisis of vaccine damage. There is no validation, admission or anyone taking responsibility for what has happened to these children.

One additional personal experience involves the time that I spent as a foster parent being forced to vaccinate an infant in my care. Every single time we vaccinated, she would become ill and experience painful injection sites, cold or flu like symptoms. The medical staff would minimize my concerns and I had no rights as a foster parent. After two years we adopted that child and now experience emotional, physical and financial burdens that we suspect could be linked to vaccines.

These are just a few of my personal experiences, but they are very near and dear to my heart. These experiences have led me to feel stronger about medical freedom than I have ever felt before. Keep Americans free with medical choice. Let us decide what is best for our families since in the end, we are the ones loving, caring and providing for them. Please support bill HB 2601.

Thank you for your service and time.

Melinda
Manhattan, Kansas