

February 11, 2020
Re: HB 2601

Representative Steve Huebert, Chairman of the Education Committee,

I fully support the proposed legislation which will limit the power of the KDHE to mandate additional vaccines for children.

“Unavoidably Unsafe,” is the Supreme Court’s ruling on vaccines nearly a decade ago. If we go back further in vaccine history when the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 was established, we learn that the manufacturers of these “unavoidably unsafe” products are protected from lawsuits. On one hand, we recognize these products may present dangers and on the other hand, we protect the financial interests of the manufacturers of these very products. I wonder just exactly where the incentive is for them to make a safer product. While recognizing these facts, we must also consider that many students across Kansas are required to get these products injected into their bodies. What happens when a child suffers an injury from these products? What are families left with if they cannot sue to reimburse for their losses? I can tell you one family’s experience.

In our family, we have people vaccinated prior to the 1986 Act when only 1/3 of the vaccines were required for school admittance. We have people fully and partially vaccinated according to the current CDC schedule. And we have people who are completely unvaccinated. Like several other Kansas families we’ve met, our healthiest members are those with zero vaccines. Our sickest members are those vaccinated according to the current schedule. Though all our family members occasionally fall ill, our unvaccinated members heal within hours. Our vaccinated members not only take longer to heal, but they are also the ones dealing with a host of other issues: PANS/PANDAS, Celiac disease, Asthma, and skin conditions. Some of these conditions are more severe than others, but each of them has required us to spend a significant portion of our income to heal or help recover health losses. One condition is so severe, it required additional income. This took parents away from children who needed them more than ever. We were also faced with taking significant time off work in order to care for these injured children as there are many medical appointments to attend, insurance to deal with, medications to pick up, school 504 meetings to attend, and many days spent holding our sick children. Short on time and resources strains relationships and creates isolation. Our family members suffer from PTSD and anxiety due to the stresses brought on by these injuries. The negative consequences of vaccinating have affected us deeply as parents and additionally as educators.

As former Kansas educators, my husband and I have grown more concerned for our students and schools. As recent as 2019, one in every six children has a developmental delay. These delays impact a student’s ability to learn, communicate and interact with others. In the last position I held in a public school, I saw so many students with these delays. There are not enough special education teachers or paras to assist with these growing demands, and this affects not only the delayed students but also their peers, their teachers, and even the climate of the school. Furthermore, the number of students with allergies – many of whom require EpiPens within the teacher’s arm’s reach – asthma, and a host of other autoimmune conditions has significantly increased since I started my first teaching job. Conditions in our schools have declined. Students’ health has declined. Learning is taking a backseat so teachers can continue to deal with a host of issues that teachers 20 years ago either didn’t deal with or rarely dealt with. As educators leave the field and frustrated parents pull their children from schools, who will be left to teach and what will the decrease in funding look like?

I’ve made my case as a parent of vaccine injured children and as a former educator, but I ultimately want to plead my case as a human being. The Nuremberg Code, introduced to prevent medical crimes against humanity following the horrific experiments conducted on a vulnerable population, consists of 10 points regarding informed consent during medical experiments. Considering a true, double-blind placebo-controlled study has never been conducted on vaccines, they are considered experiments. It is my hope that these facts and personal testimonies will make anybody examine the side of the story that all too often is not allowed in public.

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