WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

February 18, 2022

PROPONENT of HB2498

Madam Chair Landwehr and the House Committee on Health and Human Services,

I am so thankful for this bill! For far too long Kansans (and all Americans) have heard the mantra "follow the science". If we really followed the science (the honest, true, non-manipulated research), it shows that children are the LEAST likely to die from COVID-19. Even the Centers for Disease Control report this fact.¹ We have been distracted by looking at the number of cases, the number of positive tests, but not at the actual deaths **and** true causes of death.

Any vaccine has the potential to help, but all vaccines have risks and side effects.² The COVID vaccine has had more deaths reported from its use than all the other vaccines combined.³ That alone should cause you to pass this bill.

Every parent needs to weigh out the long-term benefit vs risk of vaccines. However, even if the benefits outweigh the risks, individuals (or parents of minors) should still have the right to choose to take on that risk or not. There may be individual health conditions or other circumstances specific to that individual (or family) that would influence or dictate their decision. Medicine is not a "one-size-fits-all" endeavor. Every individual's health situation is unique.

Mandating any healthcare decision violates freedom. It destroys trust. Some people choose wisely and some people do not, but their FREEDOM to choose should always be protected.

Brenda Smart Hutchinson, Reno County, KS House District 101

¹ <u>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-age.html</u>

² <u>https://childrenshealthdefense.org/wp-content/uploads/Undeniable-Vaccination-Facts-for-Legislators.pdf</u>

³ <u>https://openvaers.com/</u>