

February 11, 2020

SPEAKER

Re: HB 2601

Dear Education Committee,

My name is Danielle. I am a member of Kansans for Health Freedom. I am married and have two kids. My son is 7 and my daughter is 5. I am here today to tell a bit of our story. Both of my children have vaccine injury. Like most new parents, we trusted our healthcare providers when they told us vaccines are "safe and effective", choosing to vaccinate both of our children. At 9 months, my son was diagnosed with a peanut allergy while having his first reaction at daycare.

After his reaction, further testing revealed at least 10 more foods he was allergic to and must avoid and eczema. Doctors continued to encourage us to vaccinate, despite the fact that food proteins found in vaccines were the same foods he had been diagnosed as life-or-death allergic to. Only AFTER we brought this up, did the doctor agree this was as serious issue, and a reason to not take any further vaccines without further evaluation of what was in them.

When my son was two, we had our second child, his sister. Still believing that vaccines were safe and effective, we followed our doctors advice to vaccinate her. After her 8 week shots, she went from practically sleeping through the night at 5 weeks to barely sleeping at all. Not at night. Not at naps. In the days following her shots, she broke out in a head to toe full body rash and scream-cried for days. Our doctor shrugged it off, writing it off as coincidence.

After her next few rounds of vaccines, the negative changes continued. By 11 months months she was considered failure to thrive, not meeting the benchmarks for height and weight for her age. Around the same time, she tried her first solid foods -- a banana -- and within minutes her face, neck and ears were swollen. Further testing revealed that her food allergy list is even longer than her brothers: Tree nuts, peanuts, soy, dairy, eggs, bananas, avocado, oat, pet dander, and berries -- to name a few. Most, if not all of these food proteins/proteins, are found in vaccines. Also, cross reactivity is a major issue. The body recognizes other proteins similar to the ones they are allergic to as if they were the actual allergen making it difficult to eat foods that don't show up as tested allergens leaving us wondering when the next reaction may happen.

We are fully aware now that our children have vaccine injury and their lives could have looked completely different if we would have followed our gut and read the vaccine inserts for ourselves. The lack of testing, transparency, and NO ONE (pharmaceutical companies) being held accountable for the damage being done is an outright crime. Nothing going into a human being should ever be made mandatory. Anything not tested should never go into a human being not mention be made mandatory. The insert itself on line 13.1 states vaccines have not been tested for carcinogenic, mutagenic potential or for impairment of fertility. We are not lab rats waiting to be tested on and we are done allowing this kind of "science" in our lives and with our children.

We carry two sets of epinephrine and Benadryl everywhere we go. When our kids are not with us, they carry their epi pens in a belt around their waist. When our kids are not with us, we pray that someone will be there for them to recognize if a reaction is happening and step in to administer their life-saving epinephrine in case they go into anaphylactic shock. When our kids are not with us, we pray that a friend at school doesn't accidentally spill an allergen on them, inducing a reaction, or that a classmate doesn't place a known food allergen in their lunch as a joke, because that happens more often than you would think.

We pray that a friend or adult doesn't tease them about being allergic to foods and point out that they are different from everyone else. We pray that our kids will recover emotionally when a well-intentioned teacher forgets to let us know there was a birthday celebration that day in class, so we get to hear from our son or daughter about how they had to sit and watch all of their classmates enjoy a cupcake while they couldn't.

Mere traces of food residue could be life or death for my children.

We have never been able to take our kids out for ice cream. When we go on vacation we have to cook the same meal they eat 90% of the time at our rental that must include a kitchen then package it up in a special warming pack to bring with us to the restaurant while they watch cousins, other kids, and people order off a menu and talk about how fun and delicious it is to explore new foods.

-Vaccine injury is real.

-It is part of our everyday life.

-The cost of supplements, special diets, therapies and foods is enormous.

-But the cost of seeing your child be fearful, scared, and left out is even bigger.

There is a belief that religious and medical exemption will continue to protect children like ours, but as we see how things are playing out in other states that are moving forward with removal of freedoms, that's not the case. While speaking with a physician recently, we were told it is extremely difficult to obtain a medical exemption, even for children who have suffered the adverse effects of vaccines in the past, such as ours.

This is only a small part of our story. This is a mere glimpse of our life. This is what vaccine injury looks like. And while we maintain hope and faith we can not sit by and watch this happen to others.

Finally, as we send our kiddos to school this new school year I wish our greatest fear was: will they get sick with some kind of curable illness that could actually strengthen their immune system for the future? Or, will they make friends? Will someone exclude them? Instead we wonder: will they accidentally come into contact with a life threatening food? Will my children have to be given life saving epinephrine? Will food kill my children?

Informed consent could have changed everything.

(For the safety of my family and myself I need for my name to remain anonymous)

Sincerely,
Danielle Weinbrenner
Wichita, KS