

Re: HB 2601

February 10, 2020

Dear Education Committee Members,

My name is Tom Romenius. I am a special education teacher with over forty years of experience serving a diversified special needs student population, from ages 5 through 21. Throughout my tenure as a professional educator, I have witnessed a significant increase of students, both those who have been duly identified, as well as those within the so called, "normal" population, that exhibit a myriad of overt behaviors and learning challenges. Some of these conditions include, yet are not limited to the following: Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Conduct Disorder, Attention Deficit Disorder(ADD), Learning Disabilities (LD), Autism, Mental Retardation, Behavioral Disorders, Developmental Delays, Speech-Language difficulties, and Autoimmune issues.

There has been an alarming upsurge of students in our public schools exhibiting severe behavioral and learning problems; markedly more than when I began my career in 1976. These observations are shared with many fellow educators who deal with this epidemic of student issues on a daily basis.

There appears to be a correlation between the increase of mandated school vaccines, and the affliction of students' mental and physical health based upon what comprises decades of my observations. I am not going to become entangled in the seemingly infinite debate as to whether children's inoculations are the direct cause for Autism, for I find that to be a distraction-whether intentional or not-from the many other health risks associated with the toxic ingredients that are listed in the vaccine packaging. What I do know is that there is an influx of students with loss of concentration on tasks, challenging coping skills, anger-management issues, cognitive ability, and the exhibition of frustration.

I am not a chemist, nor a physician, yet I have read numerous publications, articles, and other materials relating to the ingredients and disclaimers included in the vaccine inserts in order to gain a more profoundly enlightened understanding. Many of those events are crippling, and there are a multitude of health impairing conditions listed. Common sense should prevail, and if not that, then at the very least, freedom of choice. Choice to utilize a vaccine if it is indeed what you deem best for yourself or your child, or the choice not to do so. Overcoming those skeptical and dismissive reactions that I encounter when even attempting to broach the subject of vaccine injury affecting our children is so disheartening, and often times demeaning.

My career has been dedicated to not only the education, but to the protection and well-being of my student charges. Witnessing on a daily basis so many students struggle with every facet of the educational process is truly heart wrenching. A sincere, open dialogue pertaining to all aspects of vaccines is imperative. Hopefully, you will find merit in my passion and concerns, and thereby endorse the submitted amendment.

Respectfully,

Tom Romenius

USD 260 Educator

Derby, KS