

February 12, 2020

Re: HB 2601

Dear Education Committee Members,

I am writing you as a testimony in favor of the proposed bill HB2601. I am a mother of 4 beautiful and very healthy children. None of which has even gotten a cold this season let alone the flu. My children are healthy because they have not received the vaccines that Kansas and the other states are trying to mandate. None of my children, my oldest being 8, has ever gotten any serious illnesses to be exact. I truly believe and know that because I had the right to choose in the best interest of my children's health, that they are thriving. Parents should have the right to choose in the best interest of their children and mandating vaccines will take away that right. Whether a person is anti or pro vaccine is not the problem we are facing. Taking the rights out of the parents hands and allowing the state to make the decisions for all children as a whole is ludicrous. As a young adult I was a daytime nanny for a family of 4 boys. The second oldests name was Joseph. He was a very healthy and thriving little man with a vibrant personality and spitting out words at a rapid pace. Approximately a week after receiving several vaccinations, little Joseph stopped speaking. He started muttering and wouldn't make eye contact. I immediately pointed it out to his mother who took him to a specialist. He was promptly diagnosed with severe autism. Right before my very eyes I saw a child's life ruined. His parents life ruined. It was as if he was trapped inside his own little body, screaming to get out. I'll never forget it as long as I live, and it changed my perception of vaccinations in a huge way. At the time I wasn't married and had no children so I didn't have to make those decisions. But I knew when and if my time came that I would choose to protect my children from the damages that were possible.

When I was a bit older and still unmarried I became a trained medical biller and medical office manager. I began interviewing for a position with several different offices. One was a very large children's pediatric clinic. The woman interviewing me was a very prominent and wealthy doctor that owned the clinic. She told me my main job would be to red flag all the children's charts the day prior to their appointments with the exact vaccinations they needed, because above all else this was the clinic's biggest revenue. She explained that most of their patients were low income and that the government always paid for and paid very well for the vaccinations. So well In fact that she just owned the clinic and no longer actually saw the patients herself. I was mortified and told her the job was not what I was looking for. So when people tell me it's not about the money... it's a lie. And when people try to tell me it doesn't cause damages or autism, I KNOW it's a lie. In fact I'm so passionate about parents having the right to choose for their children that I will not vote for any politician who does not support the rights given to us by God to protect our children. Please do the right thing and vote in favor of our bill.

Sincerely,  
Laura M Gettman  
St. Marys, KS