



Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

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Chairman Hilderbrand, Vice Chairman Gossage, and Members of the Committee, on behalf of The University of Kansas Cancer Center, this written testimony is submitted in neutral testimony regarding Senate Bill 212.

I am a member of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and am providing testimony on the role of the ACIP. I also co-chair the Immunization Schedule Working Group for the ACIP.

The ACIP is made of public health experts and medical professionals who develop recommendations for vaccine use in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sets the vaccine schedule based on our recommendations. Our recommendations are based on careful review of the medical evidence.

The fifteen voting members on the ACIP are carefully selected and have expertise in vaccinology, immunology, pediatrics, internal medicine, nursing, virology, public health, infectious disease, and preventive medicine. To be placed on the committee, you must be nominated, complete an application, and then selected by Secretary of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. There are also 30 non-voting members who represent health care professional organization such as the American Academy of Family Physicians and American Academy of Pediatrics. Some people are not eligible to be on the committee such as individuals who are employed or whose family members are employed by pharmaceutical companies.

In normal years, we meet three times annually to provide vaccine recommendations, these meetings are open to the public. Recently, we have met much more frequently to review vaccinations against COVID-19. During these meetings, we review scientific data and research particularly as it relates to vaccine safety and effectiveness. We also review outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, such as the recent measles outbreak in New York City. We have time for public comment before and during the meetings, as well as online public comments.

Once the ACIP votes to approve vaccine recommendations, the CDC Director approves the recommendations, and the recommendations are then published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Publication of the recommendations in the report represents the official CDC recommendations for immunizations in the United States.

I appreciate the opportunity to present information on the ACIP.

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