

March 18, 2023

Honorable Beverly Gossage
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Kansas Capitol, Room 142 South
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: Oral and Written Proponent testimony, SB315

Dear Chairwoman Gossage and Committee:

I reside in Louisburg, and, on behalf of Kansans for Health Freedom, I am submitting this testimony in support of SB315.

SB315 addresses multiple health freedom issues that have been exacerbated over the last three years as covid misinformation was pushed by various government agencies and those allied with their goals. This bill would bring a certain normalcy to our places of education and employment.

While the 2021 special session provided vital relief for employees facing job losses for their decision not to vaccinate, KSHF is still being contacted by students facing discrimination because that legislation applied only to covid vaccinations. SB315 now expands this right so that the religious exemption applies to all vaccinations and, moreover, it does not limit its remedy to a state agency prosecution.

SB315 also assists those Kansans seeking higher education degrees. Over the last few years, and even now, KSHF has heard from students who faced mandated vaccine requirements, primarily for covid. This was especially true for students who were seeking degrees in medical fields. Many submitted to these vaccinations against their beliefs and, unfortunately, some did not survive this decision. Others walked away from these programs or found programs in other states willing to honor their beliefs. This bill makes that dilemma unnecessary.

Finally, SB315 addresses the issue faced by parents of preschoolers. While K.S.A. 65-508 provided a religious exemption for young children, preschools were telling these parents that this exemption applied only to the state and did not apply to them as private businesses. Many exemptions were rejected. This bill makes it clear that religious exemptions apply to daycare facilities as well as to the government.

SB315 addresses many vital concerns of Kansans who want the freedom to make their healthcare decisions. I urge you to support this legislation.

Respectfully,
William Mize
Louisburg