

February 11, 2020

Dear Education Committee Members,

As a mother, foster parent and adoptee mother, grandmother, former Registered nurse, elementary teacher and preschool owner, I am writing to ask that you support Representative Heurbert's bill HB 2601. I stand and believe in medical freedom for all.

I am unable to attend the hearing 2-13-20. I would like to share a couple of brief comments about my experience with medical choice. As a former nurse, I worked in a health department approximately 10 years ago. I assisted with setting up flu vaccine clinics at our health department and also administered flu vaccines. I watched numerous people come into the health department or call with side effects to report. Their reporting was handled with minimizing or being taken to a closed office where only one nurse was privy to any information documented. There were people, children included that had side effect concerns that I have always felt in my heart were ignored and discredited.

I have watched over the past few years, "vaccine mandates" or "suggested schedules" be presented in a manner that make parents believe they have no choice. As a professional, I have never seen this as respectful of the right a parent has to raise their child.

I am no longer practicing as a medical professional, but speak to many young mothers in our church that tell me story after story of being pressured by physicians to have their children vaccinated. I hear stories of side effects being ignored and have spoken with families who live every day with the crisis of vaccine damage. There is no validation admission or anyone taking responsibility for what has happened to these children. And a very

On a very personal level, I have watched my oldest daughter and son-in-law go through a traumatic birth and traumatic hospital experience in Kansas a couple of years ago. That trauma affected our entire family and has had rippling effects. My first born grandchild was forced to receive high powered antibiotics against the parents wishes. The reason given was from a swab done during pregnancy that supposedly set up potential for infection in a newborn baby. However when repeatedly ask, the medical staff were unable to produce any proof there was any infection in that newborn child. We ask to sign out Against Medical Advice and we were threatened with Child Protective Services reporting. Our family has experienced all kinds of health issues (gut issues, severe allergies, autism, sensory issues..) in that newborn child. The pain and suffering (emotional, physical, financial, loss of dreams for their child...) I have watched my children and grand child go through is the deepest sadness I have experienced. To see an innocent poor newborn baby be filled with unnecessary antibiotics and face a lifetime of medical issues should have dire consequences for those who inflicted the suffering. Most families today would not have the financial means to take this type of medical abuse to the courts and afford what is necessary to have those involve prosecuted.

Another very difficult experience for myself personally is the time that I spent as a foster parent being forced to vaccinate a five-month-old baby in my care. Every single time we

vaccinated, she would become ill and experience cold or flu like symptoms. The medical staff would minimize my concerns and I had no rights as a foster parent. After two years we adopted that child and now experience emotional, physical and financial burdens due to disabilities I believe were potentially created from those vaccines.

These are just a few of my personal experiences, but they are very near and dear to my heart. These experiences have led me to feel stronger about medical freedom than I have ever felt before. Our freedoms are not something to be taken lightly and continuing to further mandate and make choices for families about their health is not what this country was founded on. Please support this bill.

Thank you. May God bless America!

Melinda

Manhattan, KS