

Re: HB 2601

2/9/20

Dear Education Committee Members,

I was born in the early 90s when the vaccination schedule increased. I got all of my routine shots growing up and had a fairly healthy upbringing with lots of healthy foods and plenty of outdoor play time to get exercise. In second grade however I was diagnosed with asthma, a chronic condition that I still live with today. In high school my good friends sometimes teased me that I had “the worst immune system ever” because there would be times I would get sick with unknown illnesses and be out of school for a month at a time, falling terribly behind in my advanced mathematics courses. I’ve lived with chronic fatigue since I was a child as well as ADHD. When I was in high school, however, the HPV vaccine came out and being from a family who was very mainstream in western medicine I was surprised to see at my doctors visits how strongly my mom opposed me getting that shot when normally she went along with whatever was “the doctor’s orders.” I knew I would keep my virginity until marriage but I wasn’t sure at that time who I would marry and thought if my future husband has HPV wouldn’t that be beneficial? What harm could it do? But my mom kept vehemently refusing that vaccine (to my embarrassment at that time). I am now so thankful she made that decision for me at a time when I was a minor and would not have thought critically for myself to make such a wise decision. My fertility has not been impaired as I now have two beautiful children and I did not have to suffer innumerable side effects that so many others have. I have, however, seen in my friends and acquaintances an impaired fertility epidemic which is heartbreaking to watch over and over again. I plan to never have my daughter get that vaccine as well.

When I went away to college, being in a healthcare program and volunteering in healthcare settings I opted to get my flu shot my sophomore year of college. The next day I became sick with “flu-like symptoms” and my roommate took me to the ER for my first and only ER trip I needed for asthma. It was my worst attack ever and I had such difficulty breathing that I needed someone else to drive me. Despite having all the symptoms of the flu I was told that my asthma attack had nothing to do with the shot I was given the day before while perfectly healthy. When I came back to campus and saw my doctor there she also denied any of my reactions being from the shot. I was so outraged that I was brushed aside and ignored in this way. This was the first situation that made me start to doubt the efficacy of vaccines but yet at that time I was still on board for all the others. Now I have learned that I have a gene mutation which can make vaccines especially harmful for me and others like me. My doctors dismissed me back then. I now wonder how many hours over the years I lost of my schooling to being sick, not concentrating because of my ADHD, sleeping because of extreme fatigue and narcoleptic symptoms, and asthma attacks. I’m sure it is impossible to count now. Please stand on the side of freedom and letting us be in control of our own healthcare.

Sincerely,
Anonymous
Salina, KS