

February 12, 2020

Chairman Huebert, Vice Chair Dietrich, and the House Education Committee,

I am a practicing pediatrician at Children's Mercy in Kansas City and Overland Park, and in my practice we care for children hospitalized for common illnesses and those with complex medical problems. As a pediatrician, I work to keep children safe from preventable illnesses so they can grow up to reach their full potential. With this goal in mind, I write to express my opposition to HB 2601 that will limit critical public health expertise in the decisions of public health matters. The primary reasons for my opposition to this bill are as follows:

- HB 2601 would politicize the issue of immunizations by inappropriately placing responsibility for determining school and day care immunization requirements with the state legislature.
- Decisions to make changes to immunization requirements should continue to be the responsibility of health experts at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), as they have carefully done since 1979.
- KDHE employs experts in public health, medicine, and health care administration who weigh the scientific evidence to determine necessary changes to immunization requirements.
- HB2601 unintentionally gives a platform to misinformation about vaccines by interfering with the ability of the health experts at the KDHE to make informed decisions on behalf of the public.

Vaccines are SAFE and EFFECTIVE. Please continue to support evidence-based and state-supported health policy, without allowing the politicization of vaccines. Oppose the adoption of HB2601.

Sincerely,

Kathryn E. Kyler, MD, MSc, FAAP
Children's Mercy Kansas City
Leawood, KS Resident