

Siena Medical Clinic St. Catherine Hospital

 Centura Health Physician Group.

311 E Spruce St
Garden City, KS 67846
620.275.3700 Direct
stcatherinehosp.org

An open letter to Chairman Huebert, Vice Chair Dietrich, and the House Education Committee,

My name is Dr. Michael Shull. As a pediatrician, I have had the privilege of caring for children in southwest Kansas (Garden City) for over 30 years. I am old enough to have seen victims of polio. I have seen, first hand, in my lifetime, how the HiB vaccine has dramatically reduced the incidence of H. influenzae meningitis in infants and children to almost nil. I have also seen vaccine recommendations change and evolve as newer information regarding safety and efficacy became apparent. I have seen our children become collectively safer because they live in a population that is, for the most part, vaccinated.

The things I mention above are honest to goodness medical issues. They are not political issues. These are real life and death issues of public health.

I am opposed to HB2601, not because I don't think vaccines are critically important, but because I believe they are too important to be made a political football. It is important for your constituents to have health care decisions made by health care experts, just as speed limits and road safety decisions are made by the appropriate state department, not by the legislature.

I realize you are bombarded on a regular basis with horror stories about vaccines and free choice. I can tell you many more horror stories about motor vehicle accidents, but I would never ask you to take car seats out of cars or take our cars off the roads. I am profoundly confident that the Kansas families I have cared for for over thirty years have been well served by thoughtful and prudent vaccine decisions by KDHE.

Please leave vaccine decisions, and our children's health safety, in the hands of KDHE.

Please let me know if there is any further information I can provide, or questions I can answer.

I apologize for sending a letter rather than being present at this hearing: I do feel this is important enough to be present in person. However, I am on call Thursday, February 13, and cannot leave town. I assure you that I feel strongly enough about this that I would be present if call obligations did not retain me.

Thank you for your work,

Michael Shull DO
Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine
Physician Director of Informatics
Siena Medical Clinic |
St. Catherine Hospital | Garden City, KS