

Re: HB 2601

February 9, 2020

Dear Chairman Huebert and Education Committee Members:

After KDHE pushed through additional vaccine mandates last year, I woke up. Up until that point, I didn't spend any time thinking about vaccines. In a time I look back on as almost like another life, I graduated from a BSN program. We were taught to not think of ourselves as handmaids to the doctors, but we weren't taught to question vaccines.

There were few vaccines then. We learned the schedule and how to give them. That's all. On the Highwire last month, Del Bigtree showed clips from a WHO conference that was held in December. A doctor admitted that doctors probably only spend half a day learning about vaccines in medical school now, this in spite of the fact that the number of vaccines has tripled since 1983.

Although I was a child of the '50s and, along with my three siblings, had every childhood infection without event, I unquestioningly gave my four kids every vaccine recommended by the pediatrician. When the last two, born in the mid to late '80s, developed eczema (at times severe) and allergies that later required years of shots, I thought it was just one of those things. When one was diagnosed with asthma before the age it was usually considered for a diagnosis along with a pronounced speech delay, it was a more severe case of "one of those things."

Some time ago I decided to forego flu shots, something I'd only done a few times anyway. Aluminum had been connected to Alzheimer's, and my mother's family was rife with the disease. Today's flu shots are aluminum-free, but the one designated for people of my age uses squalene as an adjuvant. Squalene has been implicated in the development of Gulf War syndrome. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10640454>

Now that I have learned that some of the childhood vaccines were created using aborted fetuses, I have to object to those vaccines on religious grounds. In this document from the CDC, the term "MRC-5" refers to a human cell line made of fibroblast derived from the lung tissue of male child aborted at 14 weeks. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/b/excipient-table-2.pdf>

I grieve the damage that I did to my children's immune systems by unquestioningly following the pediatrician's recommendations on vaccines. I'm grateful that I didn't stay in nursing and unwittingly inflict that damage on the children of others.

In recent months, some states have removed religious exemptions and made medical exemptions more difficult. I trust that Kansas will not remove religious exemptions in accordance with #7 of the Kansas Bill of Rights: "...nor shall any control of or interference with the rights of conscience be permitted." And, obviously, medical

exemptions should remain. Families who have already experienced injury or even death because of something in their genetic makeup that allows vaccines to affect them adversely should not have to lay their children on an altar to the public good and vaccinate again!

I would ask that the legislature go further and add philosophical exemptions. It seems unfair that those without religious beliefs be denied the ability to protect their children from the possibility of harm from vaccines. You shouldn't have to be a person of faith or have your child already injured to be able to say, "No, thank you," to the state when it comes to being able to send your children to the school system for which your taxes pay.

Thank you.

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