

March 22, 2021

Oral (in person) and Written Testimony in Support of SB 212

To the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee:

Today I want to simply share some information with you about some of the connections between KDHE and Immunize Kansas Coalition, as well as the influence that pharmaceutical companies have on not only these two organizations but our legislators.

Let's start with KDHE and Immunize Kansas Coalition:

According to the Immunize Kansas Coalition bylaws, a KDHE Institutional Representative shall serve on their board. Also, the KDHE appears to have a yearly contract with the Immunize Kansas Coalition and gives a lot of money to the organization.

From the IKC Meeting Notes, I found that

- the 8/4/17 minutes state that \$75,000 was received from the KDHE in the 18 months starting January 2016
- the 10/27/17 minutes state that \$100,000 was received from the KDHE for the 2017/2018 year
- and the 2/22/19 minutes state that \$100,000 was received from the KDHE for FY 2019

On a side note, this year the Immunize Kansas Coalition was also awarded a grant from the CDC Foundation to work on projects increasing vaccine confidence. The CDC Foundation is the non-profit arm of the CDC and gets a lot of money from pharmaceutical companies and vaccine manufacturers.

For example in fiscal year 2020:

- J&J gave the CDC Foundation well over a million dollars
- Pfizer gave the CDC Foundation over 4.8 million dollars
- Merck gave the CDC Foundation over 2 million dollars
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation gave the CDC Foundation over 11.5 million dollars
- The CDC itself gave the CDC Foundation over 54.5 million dollars

There is more, but that gives you an idea of the kind of money that is being moved through the CDC Foundation.

The following pharmaceutical companies and vaccine manufacturers are Liaison Members of Immunize Kansas Coalition and also CDC Foundation Partners:

- GlaxoSmithKline
- Johnson & Johnson
- Merck
- Pfizer
- Sanofi Pasteur

1. So pharmaceutical companies and vaccine manufacturers give a lot of money to the CDC Foundation, which then turns around and gives grants to organizations like IKC.
2. We also know that pharma does a lot of lobbying at the Capitol, giving money to legislators' campaigns
3. Then some of these pharmaceutical companies and vaccine manufacturers are Liaison Members of Immunize Kansas Coalition and also CDC Foundation Partners.
4. And KDHE gives money yearly to Immunize Kansas Coalition

Is the KDHE and IKC looking out for the best interests of Kansans or the pharmaceutical industry?

In all of this – where are the voices of Kansans being heard and represented? Amidst all the money changing hands, the lobbying, the programs to push more vaccines -- the voices of Kansans are being silenced and ignored. It's time to give Kansans a voice when it comes to medical decisions for our children.

Please support SB 212 that will prohibit Dr. Lee Norman and the KDHE from adding further mandated vaccines to the childhood schedule without representation of the people through the legislature.

Thank you.

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