



To: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

From: Rachelle Colombo
Executive Director

Date: February 13, 2023

Re: SB 6; regarding infectious and contagious diseases

The Kansas Medical Society (KMS) is the only statewide association advocating for physicians in every specialty and is dedicated to improving the environment in which Kansas physicians practice medicine and to protecting the health of Kansans.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to SB 6, restricting the authority of the Secretary of Health and Environment and local health officers to prevent the introduction and spread of infectious or contagious diseases and repealing the authority of the secretary to quarantine individuals and impose associated penalties.

Kansas physicians respect and appreciate the work and role of the legislature to enact laws ensuring the health, safety and prosperity of Kansans, as they have done with regard to childhood immunizations, licensure and oversight of the medical professions, public health and more. However, SB 6 would prevent the Secretary of KDHE and local health officers from rapidly and appropriately respond to threats to public health.

KMS supports the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Secretary and local health officers retaining the flexibility and authority to be responsive to emergent communicable disease outbreaks. The current process offers the best protection for Kansans and should not be altered.

We oppose SB 6 and respectfully request your unfavorable consideration of the measure. Thank you.