



**Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare  
March 22, 2023  
Amanda Applegate, PharmD, BCACP - Chair-Elect  
Immunize Kansas Coalition**

Chair Gossage, Vice Chair Erickson, and Members of the Committee, on behalf of Immunize Kansas Coalition (IKC), this written testimony is submitted in **opposition of Senate Bill 314**. IKC is a group of Kansas health care providers, health department officials, researchers and educators working together to improve the health of Kansans through improved vaccination rates to protect against vaccine-preventable disease. IKC is an independent and objective source of evidence and facts. IKC's members volunteer their time and resources to support our mission of protecting every Kansan from vaccine preventable diseases. We do this work because we trust in the science behind the vaccine recommendations, and like you, we want only the best for the residents of Kansas. One of our goals is to provide education which will empower you, as legislators, to process and respond to the information you are receiving in an informed way. IKC does not promote, recommend, nor are we working to add the COVID-19 vaccination to the list of school required wellness vaccines. We provide this testimony in opposition of SB 314 to protect the integrity of the current process by which the immunization schedule is set for childcare and school entry in Kansas.

This bill before you today is being proposed as “necessary” to protect our students from an impending COVID vaccine requirement, but that’s not what this is really about. **It is another attempt at the first step in undoing Kansas’ current process for adjusting the wellness vaccine requirements for school and childcare attendance.**

Vaccinations are among the greatest achievements of public health. The current childhood vaccination schedule protects against many diseases that used to injure or claim the lives of thousands each year in Kansas and the U.S. With the potential for the epidemiology of diseases to shift over time, new diseases to emerge, and vaccination recommendations to change, it is important that the list of childcare and school vaccination requirements remain under the authority of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Minimal changes have been made to the list of school vaccination requirements since the regulation became effective, only three times in the past 41 years.

Additionally, in a statewide survey conducted by Public Opinion Strategies January-February of 2022 (<https://nurturekc.org/kansans-support-vaccines/>), 85% of Kansas voters, across party lines, believed that KDHE is the appropriate entity to set wellness vaccine policy for Kansas children. KDHE has the clinical expertise to make those decisions and they’ve gotten it right each time. **There has been no attempt by KDHE to add COVID-19 vaccination to the Kansas requirements or schedule**, just like there has been no action or conversation about adding the seasonal flu vaccine in the 14 years it has been recommended for children.

Thank you for the opportunity to share why our coalition opposes SB 314. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at [akacjm@gmail.com](mailto:akacjm@gmail.com) if you have questions.