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Written Testimony – Opponent
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Senate Bill 391
February 15, 2024

Chairperson Gossage, members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 391.

Kansas NEA is committed to the prevention of communicable diseases. KNEA believes that school districts, and educational institutions, working in collaboration with school nurses and local health authorities, should initiate professional development about communicable diseases and their prevention. In as much as we challenge ourselves to do our part in preventing the spread of communicable diseases, Kansas NEA opposes any movement to prevent others from doing their part as well.

SB 391 weakens the Secretary of Health and Environment's, county or joint boards of health, and the local health officer's authority to be proactive in carrying out operations related to stopping the spread of infectious and contagious diseases. This bill takes Kansas in the wrong direction.

We ask the committee to oppose SB 391.