

January 12, 2012

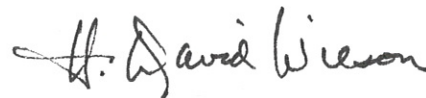
Health & Human Services Committee  
Kansas Legislature

Dear Committee Members:

My name is H. David Wilson, M.D. and it is my honor to serve as the Dean of The University of Kansas School of Medicine in Wichita. I'm a pediatrician with special training in pediatric infectious diseases and over thirty years of caring for children with the most serious infections. You are considering HB2094 and I must offer my advice – it is not a wise bill and should be defeated. Its passage will result in the reappearance of diseases like measles, whooping cough, tetanus, diphtheria, chicken pox, polio, and hemophilus meningitis. Today these conditions are rarely seen by physicians because our children are protected through immunizations and the few susceptible children are protected by “herd immunity.” The herd immunity protects because almost all are protected thus these highly contagious diseases cannot find susceptibles to start an epidemic.

There are rare but legitimate reasons for not giving vaccines but this law, if adopted, will make it easy on a whim to deny children safe and effective ways to prevent diseases that all too often have fatal or most serious consequences including brain damage leading to mental retardation. This proposed bill should be defeated.

Respectfully,



H. David Wilson, MD  
Dean, KU School of Medicine-Wichita  
Professor of Pediatrics