

March 2, 2018

Dear Committee Members,

Senate Bill 405 poses a substantial hazard for human health, and I urge you to vote against the bill and to support Representative Karleskint in his effort for transparency and community choice.

Under the state's current statute, any structure with 125,000 or more chickens must be located 4,000 feet from habitable structures, including homes, businesses, churches, schools, hospitals, etc.

If Senate Bill 405 passes, statewide regulations would allow even larger poultry barns — with a capacity of more than 300,000 chickens — and these barns could be located a mere 1,320 feet from habitable structures.

I live in rural Tonganoxie, where we have a small flock of free-range chickens. Last fall, a member of my family contracted a severe gastrointestinal infection. Hospital lab tests showed it was a *Campylobacter* bacterial infection that likely came from the chickens in our own backyard.

Studies have shown that poultry farms contribute to the environmental load of *Campylobacter* by contaminating soils at farm premises and where the manure is spread. This may also reach adjacent surface water by running off the farm premises.

If a flock of 15 chickens can result in a severe illness spreading to a human, imagine the danger of raising 330,000-plus chickens, totaling millions of chickens per year, in a single barn located a mere 1,320 feet from buildings where people live, learn and worship.

With all due respect, I urge you to take a stand for the health and well being of Kansans — vote **NO** for Senate Bill 405.

Cordially,  
W. Fred Scheller

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