

Oral Testimony  
2/18/22  
PROPONENT of HB 2498

Keely Waller  
Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas  
House District 10

Madam Chair Landwehr and the House Committee on Health and Human Services,

I am writing today to express my full support for HB 2498 which would prohibit the secretary of health and environment from requiring COVID-19 vaccination for children attending school or daycare.

As a mother of three precious children (ages 5, 4, and 2), I work so hard to care and advocate for them every single minute of every day. If you're a parent, surely you understand the exhausting and beautiful feat that parenthood is. Since the day I became a mother, I have considered and researched nearly every decision I've made for my children regarding their health, doctors, development, church, schools, social circles, the books they read and the shows they watch. Vaccines should be no different. Irreversibly injecting young children with vaccines is a decision that should be researched, discussed with a trusted family doctor, and come with parental CHOICE instead of coercion via mandates or state requirements. We all have different medical and health history. We all have different philosophical beliefs. We all have different religious beliefs. And we certainly all have our own unique life experiences that have shaped the way we view and understand our world and all the decisions we make. Forcing a family to vaccinate children JUST to attend school or daycare is unlawful and unscientific. Especially when it comes to the Covid19 vaccine that, according to the CDC, does NOT stop transmission or contraction of the virus. Our children have over 99.99% (also according to the CDC) chance of surviving this virus and although I completely support parent choice to vaccinate or not vaccinate their children, it should NOT be required to provide child care or education. We are on the brink of giving our state government too much power in our parenting decisions and bodily autonomy and we need you to protect Kansas families!

Please support HB 2498!

Thank you,

Keely Waller