

February 18, 2022

Chairperson Brenda Landwehr

House Committee of Health and Human Services

RE: HB 2498

Dear Chairperson Brenda Landwehr,

I'm writing as a physician who has spent the last 12 years exclusively taking care of children. I support HB 2498 which will prohibit the Secretary of Health and Environment from requiring the COVID-19 vaccination for children attending schools and daycares in the state of Kansas.

Covid 19 infection, even with the original Wuhan variant, was never a threat to our children and now is even less so with the Omicron variant, with many saying it will become endemic manifesting as a common cold. The mortality rate, throughout the pandemic with Covid-19 infection, in healthy children was essential zero and large percentages of our children now have natural immunity and are contributing significantly to herd immunity for our population. Therefore, there is absolutely no indication for the children of Kansas to have the Covid 19 vaccine mandated to attend schools and daycare. Lastly, countless studies have shown that children are not spreaders of this disease to adults therefore there is no need to vaccinate children to protect teachers. The large Swedish study that included 1.8 million children prior to vaccinations showed that teachers actually fared better than other professionals in regards to Covid 19 outcomes. For all these reasons, children should not have the Covid 19 vaccine mandated to attend schools and daycare.

Sincerely,

Gayln Perry, MD