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Written Testimony on House Bill 2498

House Committee of Health and Human Services

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

February 21, 2022

Chairwoman Landwehr and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony for House Bill 2498.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has been given the authority to determine the immunizations that are required for children to attend child care facilities and inoculations for children attending schools pursuant to K.S.A. 65-508 and K.S.A. 72-6262, respectively. The authority to determine which vaccines are required is within the authority of the KDHE. No other entities or agencies, including schools, can establish whether a vaccine is required to attend a child care facility or school.

The KDHE does not plan to add the COVID-19 vaccine as a mandatory vaccine for children attending child care facilities or enrolled in schools.