



Testimony in **Opposition of HB 213**-Prohibiting an employer from taking any adverse employment actions against an employee because of the employee's vaccination status.

Honorable Senator Olsen and Members of the Commerce Committee,

My name is Ronda Hutchinson and I am the President of the Kansas School Nurse Organization.

Our organization opposes HB 213 as it would prohibit an employer from taking action against employees who choose not to vaccinate. This bill would limit the types of mandates that companies in Kansas could place on employees who don't want to vaccinate. This bill is particularly problematic for hospitals and local health departments as vaccination is a contingency of employment to protect patients. Allowing the current process to continue as is protects immunocompromised and other high-risk patients who would be in danger of increased mortality and morbidity if they contracted a vaccine preventable disease. It has been our experience that employees who cannot have a vaccine due to a medical condition can be given options like wearing a mask. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) comprises medical and public health experts who develop recommendations on the use of vaccines in the civilian population of the United States.

We urge you to oppose SB 213 as the ACIP recommendations stand as public health guidance for safe use of vaccines as well as:

- SB 213 infringes on the rights of employers to protect the health of their employees by requiring vaccination, potentially putting all workers at risk which could ultimately decrease availability of trained workers when they are absent due to illness.
- SB 213 ignores and dilutes vaccination standards that have eradicated outbreaks for generations of workers.
- SB 213 ignores the necessity of certain employers, such as hospitals and public health departments that must require vaccination as a contingency of employment to protect patients.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our concern. In summary, we **oppose SB 213** and are in favor of employers retaining the freedom to protect their employees, patients, and customers with vaccination requirements as they deem necessary. **Please vote "no" on SB 213.**

Ronda Hutchinson, BSN, RN
Kansas School Nurse Organization President