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Written Testimony - Opponent  
Senate Bill 314  
Senate Committee on Public Health & Welfare  
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Chairwoman Gossage, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 314.

Kansas NEA believes that vaccinations are essential medical tools in preventing infectious diseases. Kansas NEA also believes that the Secretary of Health and Environment should have the authority to determine vaccination requirements. They are the educated and trained professionals with the expertise to make those decisions.

There are currently no requirements in place from the Secretary of Health and Environment for the COVID vaccine. Those decisions are currently made at the local level with locally elected school boards or within the private childcare facilities. Kansas NEA supports these local decisions based on guidance of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the American Academy of Pediatrics, or the Center for Disease Control.

We believe this bill is a solution in search of a problem and creates a slippery slope to eliminate the Kansas Secretary of Health and Environment's authority to make any immunization requirements.

We urge the committee to oppose SB 314.