



March 15, 2017

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2205

Chairwoman Schmidt and Members of the Committee,

The Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) represents over 90 percent of the practicing pediatricians in the state. The KAAP has the fundamental goal that all children in Kansas have the opportunity to grow safe and strong. We strongly support HB 2205. Pediatricians see the devastating effects of meningococcal meningitis. We have watched as families struggle with the death of their child. Luckily we now have a means to prevent this disease. Unfortunately immunization rates for prevention are extremely low in our state. This bill would help increase those rates.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention data notes:

- Meningococcal disease is a serious illness that can cause death and survivors may have long-term disabilities, such as loss of limb(s), deafness, nervous system problems, or brain damage.
- Anyone can get meningococcal disease, but rates of disease are highest in children younger than 1 year, followed by a second peak in adolescence
- Meningococcal disease is spread from person to person. The bacteria are spread by exchanging respiratory and throat secretions during close or lengthy contact
- Even with antibiotic treatment, 10 to 15 out of 100 people infected with meningococcal disease will die.
- Even with antibiotic treatment About 11 to 19 out of every 100 survivors will suffer loss of limb(s), deafness, nervous system problems, or brain damage.
- There are safe and effective vaccines that help provide protection against meningococcal disease
- CDC recommends meningococcal vaccination for all preteens and teens at 11 to 12 years old, with a booster dose at 16 years old, as is reflected in House Bill 2205.

Thank you for your time and attention. We welcome any questions you might have and are happy to serve as your resource on pediatric issues.

Submitted by
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