

March 13, 2017

Dear Public Health & Welfare Committee Members,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. I am the mother of a 10-year-old daughter with multiple neurological issues. We have been working for over 5 years now to bring healing to her.

I want to express my opposition to a mandated meningococcal vaccine for Kansas public and private school students. 64% of children ages 13-17 are already receiving this vaccine without any mandate. No parent who believes it in his or her child's best interest to receive this vaccine is prevented from doing so, in close consultation with their family physician, and the state incidence is already low, with only around 5 cases per year.

No government agency should deny its citizens their fundamental, constitutional rights, and what is more fundamental than the right to control one's own body? In our society, parents read labels for the foods consumed by their children in an effort to protect and nourish them. How much more should a parent have the right to read a vaccine insert, with its ingredients and side effects, and decide for their precious children what is in each child's best interest? One size does not fit all in the proper practice of health and medicine.

There has never been any test done to show either the efficacy or the safety of the full vaccine protocol mandated by the CDC, and vaccine manufacturers face zero liability if their product proves to be harmful to its recipients. Parents are unable to sue either the vaccine manufacturer or their physician if their child becomes injured or are killed by a vaccine. So, who pays the price when these things happen? It is parents and individuals who shoulder the exorbitant costs associated with the care required when vaccine injury occurs, and it is society that will bear the burden when vaccine-injured children become adults who no longer have parents to care for them and meet their needs. As of September 30, 2015, the federal Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS), which includes only a small fraction of the health problems that occur after vaccination in the U.S., had recorded more than 1846 serious health problems, hospitalizations and injuries following meningococcal shots, including 99 deaths.

Our founding fathers believed that we were endowed by our Creator with the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. Government should not be in the business of taking away fundamental liberties. Please reject this mandate. The only ones who stand to benefit from it are the vaccine manufacturers themselves, not the citizens you represent.

Sincerely,

Kelly Smith

Newton, KS