

I am writing in support of SB314. I have been a pediatrician for 25 years, the last 20 in Overland Park, KS. On a daily basis I weigh the benefit/risk ratio for many treatments I recommend for my patients. There are few interventions, medications, vaccines, or procedures that offer only positive side effects. Most treatments I offer come with the possibility of negative side effects. I share those with the patient and their parents and we come to a decision together.

The Covid mRNA vaccine is no different: there are potential benefits for certain populations as well as risks. For the elderly, as well as for adults with obesity, significant hypertension, diabetes, or immunodeficiency, for example, there may be potential benefits -- and those patients should discuss those benefits versus the risks of the vaccine with their individual physician.

For healthy children, teens, and young adults without significant medical conditions, and whose risk of serious morbidity or mortality from the Covid infection is extremely low, the benefit/risk ratio should be discussed w each patient and their parents. There is evidence this vaccine provides minimal protection for the individual vaccinated, for only a few months, and for a variant that has already come and gone in the population. There is evidence this vaccine does NOT prevent the vaccinated from spreading the infection to others. There is mounting evidence that there are significant negative, life altering side effects possible after receiving this vaccine for an unacceptably high number of recipients. And lastly, there is evidence the vaccines can cause death in a certain percentage of recipients.

If this was a vaccine for Ebola, a certain amount of morbidity and mortality from the vaccine could be more acceptable. But for an infection such as Covid, where severity is similar to influenza in healthy young populations, severe morbidity and mortality from the vaccine are not acceptable. Every patient over 18 years old and every parent should be allowed to make the decision for themselves and their children whether to receive this vaccine.

Please consider sending this bill forward to the Senate, to allow parents the ability to make this important health decision for their children.

Sincerely,

Christine White, M.D.