

February 15, 2024

Testimony to the Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee

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TITLE: Kansas Citizen

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BILL NUMBER: SB 391

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

This bill suggests the elimination of several laws pivotal for public health quarantines, potentially weakening our public health infrastructure's core function to prevent disease spread.

The removal of critical statutes would limit our ability to enforce quarantines during outbreaks of dangerous diseases like measles, polio, and whooping cough.

This bill poses not only a health risk to our communities but also a significant economic burden, as evidenced by past outbreaks where the lack of isolation and quarantine measures could have drastically increased both cases and costs.

The proposed eliminations of statutes that allow the KDHE Secretary to intervene in quarantines, penalize violations of disease prevention orders, and the legal framework for issuing and contesting orders of isolation and quarantine are concerning. These statutes are foundational to our ability to respond to public health emergencies swiftly and effectively.

Please support the current public health department requirements which keep our community, including the most vulnerable, safe from preventable diseases by voting no on SB 391.

Sincerely,

Jan Brunks
Olathe, KS