

February 12, 2024

Senator Beverly Gossage, Chairperson
And Members of the
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
300 SW 10th Ave
Room 445-S
Topeka, Ks 66612

Re: Opposition to SB390

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I live in Grant County Kansas and am writing to you to express my opposition to this bill. The decision to accept the medical services described in this bill is a choice that must be made by each individual with the input of their doctor. And just as those choices should not be held against us by an employer, healthcare entity, school or another person, they should not place others at greater risk and come with a responsibility to do the right thing.

If my personal choice is to come to work, school or a public place while ill, a business, and the others listed in this bill, should be able to deny me entry or to separate me from others. The proprietors and customers of these businesses have just as much right to be healthy, as the individual has to decline specific medical services.

An additional concern is how this bill may impact our economy. While there could be valid lawsuits filed, there will also be ones without merit. Both of which will require businesses, healthcare entities, schools and persons, to insure against this risk and/or to spend untold amounts of money on legal fees. Costs that will always be passed on to the individual citizens through increased costs for goods and services and higher taxes.

Please do not take any action on this bill.

Respectfully,

Ruth Edwards

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And Members of the
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
300 SW 10th Ave
Room 445-S
Topeka, Ks 66612

Re: Opposition to SB391

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of Grant County, I am writing to you because I am worried about the impact of this bill on my health and the health of my neighbors. The proposed changes to limit the ability of our Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), my county board of health, and our local health officer, to respond to an infectious or contagious disease, places my health in jeopardy.

As a United States citizen, each of us enjoy individual rights that are unequalled around the world. And as an elected official, I call upon you to ensure that my rights are not diminished under this proposed legislation.

Just as those who introduced this bill do not want to have a public official implement isolation, quarantine or prohibit public gatherings, I do not want to be unreasonably exposed to any illness due to the choices of others. I am not a public health expert but have lived long enough to understand that many illnesses which were commonplace in prior generations have been reduced or eliminated in this country due to effective public health strategies. I also trust that every citizen and public official did their very best to manage this awful pandemic in the past few years and I am thankful for those who acted not just for themselves, but for the good of everyone.

Please do not take any action on this bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth Edwards". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Ruth Edwards".