

Morton County Health Department

625 Colorado St Elkhart, Ks 67950

P 620-697-2612 F 620-697-2790

Testimony of Morton County Health Department to the
Opponent for SB 391
February 13, 2024

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written opponent testimony on this SB 391.

SB 391 would hinder the ability of local and state governments to impose quarantines, if necessary, and enforce other preventive regulations meant to slow the spread of contagious diseases.

By prohibiting quarantine measures, SB 391 severely limits local and state authorities' ability to prevent, quickly respond to, and contain infectious disease outbreaks if necessary. It would potentially and exponentially increase the risks of health and safety of Kansas children, adults age 65 or older, and others who are disabled or immunocompromised, and those who are not able to receive vaccines. When exposed to vaccine-preventable diseases, such as polio or measles, vulnerable Kansans are more likely to experience long-term adverse health outcomes and may even die. Restricting isolation measures could also result in infectious disease outbreaks, *especially with open borders* which will raise healthcare costs for Kansas residents and disease control costs for local and state governments.

I ask the Committee to reject this bill.

Respectfully,



Kendra Walsh, RN

Administrator

Morton County Health Department

