## Testimony Against Kansas Bill 391

Esteemed Members of the Legislature,

As both a concerned parent and a former public health professional, I urge you to oppose Bill 391. Our duty to protect our children and the wider community demands that we reject measures that undermine the very foundation of public health. The "Constitutional Right to Health Freedom Act," while championing individual freedoms, inadvertently endangers the most vulnerable among us by dismantling key public health protections.

The lessons from my tenure in local government and health departments are clear: the authority to manage health crises through quarantines and medical directives is **essential**. This bill's attempt to curtail such authority is a misguided response to recent challenges, ignoring the complex realities of disease transmission and control.

The essence of public health is prevention, which requires the ability to act decisively and collectively. Bill 391's limitations on health authorities' powers are a step backward, fueled by kneejerk reactions rather than evidence-based policymaking.

**Call to Action:** I call on you to halt the progression of this bill. We must foster a dialogue that respects both individual rights and the public interest, led by experts in public health who understand the delicate interplay between personal freedom and community safety.

Respectfully,

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