

2/3/2025

SB19

Proponent

In-Person Testimony

Ashley Prescott

Chairwoman Gossage and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ashley Prescott of Lawrence, Kansas. I have three children ages six, four and one. When I had my daughter Evelyn six years ago, we chose to vaccinate her with everything recommended at the time, except Hepatitis B.

Fast-forward to December 2020, when my son Hunter was born - as we all know just a month earlier the COVID-19 vaccine came out. As a mom of young kids who had a different vaccine given every few months, to watch how quickly the COVID vaccine came out with little testing gave me pause on all vaccines, as did many other young moms I know did. I delayed vaccination with my son while I did the research, and ultimately I'm glad that I did.

You see, at one year old my son started having severe stomach pains that were so bad, he pulled out nearly all of his hair. We finally found a doctor in KC with the necessary experience, because the vast majority of pediatricians in Lawrence required a child to be fully up-to-date on their vaccines after 1 year of age, or they refuse to offer them service.

Hunter's stomach began to heal, and one thing that Hunter's doctor recommended was, due to his stomach problems, that he not get vaccinated as the vaccine contents could exacerbate his stomach issues. I'm glad it was my child's doctor who helped me to make the decisions about the best healthcare for his body. He took an open-handed approach and educated us fairly about vaccines, gave his professional advice, and ultimately left the decision up to us.

Hunter deserves not to have a boss, a school district or a business choose what is best for his body. This is what SB19 is about: bodily autonomy and each individual being free to make what they determine is the best decision for their own health and wellbeing.

By voting in favor of SB19, you are voting on behalf of the responsible, educated citizen, and their freedom to make the healthcare decisions that are best for their own body.

Thank you for your time and consideration.