

5 February 2025
Senate PH&W -- SB 29
PROPONENT ORAL Testimony
Melissa Campbell—District 9

Madam Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB 29 as written. I support this bill because it creates law that lines up with my beliefs and the Constitution. I believe we should be able to feel safe in our own homes. I need no unelected bureaucrat (certainly one who isn't a medical doctor) to order the sheriff to remove me from my home for refusing a vaccine nor be "requiring" or "mandating" anything to me. Much is wrong with this statute, especially 65-129b.

The history of Chapter 65-129b is that in 2005, the House Appropriations gave the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Secretary appointment powers. The House passed it as Committee of the Whole, then Senate Ways and Means passed it without amendment to the Senate Committee of the Whole. Suddenly, Senator Jim Barnett, MD amended an overhaul of HB 2264 by adding an amendment KDHE wanted. Chapter 65-129 received a FIVE PAGE AMENDMENT EXPANSION without ANY hearing from the public. The Senate passed it out, sent it to the House to concur, they did, and it became law upon publication in the Kansas Register, April 21, 2005.

In 2022, the Johnson County Sheriff's Office said this about 65-129's modifications. "Considering what we have discovered, we find it difficult to believe that a floor amendment, which may or may not have been vetted in another committee, of the length and magnitude of the one added to HB2264 in 2005 that provides an extraordinary amount of power to an unelected official has stood for 17 years without any challenge."

The same year, the Kansas Sheriff's Association asked for the sheriff enforcement portion to be removed because it they felt enforcement action should be taken by civil action, not criminal.

Even Senator Sykes said, debating a health bill last week, "Patients, families, and their doctors should have the right to make their own private medical decisions. Not politicians."

Kansas' legislative process gives citizens (taxpayers, salary providers, project funders) the opportunity to share their support or concern for proposed law. Since our citizens didn't get to share 20 years ago, we should carefully weigh the testimonies of the citizens/taxpayers/salary providers/project funders. Our government is to be run by We The People. Considering the opinions of Big Business, Big Chamber, and Big Money does NOT represent the will of the people. The proponents of this bill and similar ones in years past are the PEOPLE who had no voice 20 years ago. It's time to make it right.

Please support SB 29 favorably.

Thank you,

Melissa Campbell

Senate District 9