

Shawn and Jill Craven

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1245 Seasons Ct.

Goddard, KS 67052

We support HB 2094 for passage during this legislative session. This legislation is very important to us and our family. We have three young children and believe it is our duty as parents to be informed on the risks and benefits associated with all vaccines. After much research and many unsure hours of deliberation, we have decided to do what is best for our family.

When we decided what we would do on vaccines, we knew we needed to find an exemption in order to get our son, Ethan into school. Our public school district in Goddard, KS was not uncomfortable with our decision to forgo certain vaccines, and asked us to sign a waiver stating that we did not vaccinate due to religious beliefs. Although we are Christians, we do not fall under the "religious beliefs" waiver because we do not belong to a denomination that specifically teaches against immunizing our children. When we sought to get our family physician to sign the medical waiver, we were basically laughed at. While the physician fundamentally understands our decision on vaccines, he has let us know that he would be shunned in the medical community if he started signing these medical waivers.

That left us with a problem. Because we are Christians we believe that signing the religious waiver would be a lie. The medical waiver is not an option either. We currently home school our children. This decision is not solely the result of the vaccination issue, however it was a contributing factor.

As you can see in our situation, the addition of a conscience clause would not change our views on immunizing our children. It would simply give us the freedom to put our children in public schools without having to lie to do so.

Thank you for standing with us for parental choice and freedom of conscience.

Shawn and Jill Craven