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My name is Dr. Stephen L’Hommedieu. I am a voter in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas.

Please support HB 2094 for a Conscientious Exemption to State-Mandated Exemptions.

Health agencies present persuasive arguments to strongly encourage mass vaccinations. But there is a growing number of educated parents who are not convinced, and for good reasons. In spite of sincere assurances by health officials regarding vaccine safety, there is an unprecedented epidemic of chronic illnesses and disabilities hitting U.S. children. As a result, parents are becoming more proactive in their children’s health care decisions and are questioning the science behind medical and government health agency recommendations rampant with conflicts of interest.

HB 2094 is initiated with the purpose for providing parents the right to fulfill their parental responsibility for their children’s health care. Vaccination mandates abrogates this parental responsibility and at the same time exempts related medical, pharmaceutical and government health entities from liability when adverse events result in serious injury, permanent disability or even death.

“Presently, the state of Kansas allows for only two exemption options for parents, but these do not satisfy the needs of many parents.

The first option is the medical exemption. This requires an annual written statement signed by a licensed physician stating that tests or vaccinations would seriously endanger the life or health of the child. The first issue is that it is often impossible to know if a vaccine will seriously endanger your child’s life until after the fact. The other issue is the difficulty getting a medical physician to sign off on the exemption. The main reason for this is medical physicians are not trained to recognize vaccine adverse events and injuries, and many believe vaccines carry minimal risks. But there are countless testimonies from parents who know, without a doubt, that their child experienced an adverse reaction or regressive behavior within minutes to hours and sometimes days after being vaccinated, yet the tending physician minimized or ignored the parent’s concern. With the next vaccination series the child experiences another, often more serious, reaction that pushes the child over the edge into a developmental disorder, chronic illness or worse – severe neurologic regression. It happens, and it is not that rare.

The second option is the religious exemption. The religious exemption requires a written statement signed by one parent or guardian that the child adheres to a religious denomination whose teachings are opposed to such tests or inoculations. The religious exemption as it is presently worded in the Kansas Statute is actually a misnomer. This more accurately describes a religion exemption. This applies to religious denominations whose fundamental teachings, traditions or regulations oppose elements of vaccinations or medical care in general. However, this exemption actually excludes the majority of religious denominations including biblically-based Christians.

Neither the medical or religious exemptions address the parental responsibility, moral or freedom of choice issues. The present religious exemption as it stands does not provide freedom to exercise *personal* spiritual beliefs and practices for all individuals equally, which is a form of religious discrimination. This is why passing the conscientious exemption is so important.

All 50 states offer both the medical and religious exemptions. Conscientious exemption is already offered in nineteen states representing 48% of the U.S. population. To this day there has not been any direct correlation reported between exemption rates and disease rates.

*Kansans for Vaccines Rights* shares a vision that represents hundreds of parents and individuals throughout Kansas working to promote and protect the right of every parent to make informed independent vaccination decisions for themselves and their families without risk of penalty or discrimination.

Again, please support HB 2094 for a Conscientious Exemption to mandatory vaccinations in Kansas.

Thank you,

Dr. Stephen C. L'Hommedieu