

Julie Patry

706 S. Maize Court

Wichita, KS 67209

316-308-0423

juliempatry@hotmail.com

Hello, my name is Julie Patry and I am a voter in House District 94.

Please support HB 2094 for a Conscientious Exemption to state-mandated vaccinations.

You hopefully heard or read testimony from my mother, Carol Meyer, about my sister Laura and the vaccine reaction that she experienced. My sister Laura reacted to her first DPT shot when she was 6 weeks old, which caused permanent brain damage and a life-long seizure disorder. When she was 11 years old, she received a MMR booster, which contributed to her death a week later. Her reaction was clear and the federal government compensated her for her disabilities. Despite my experiences, I do not advocate that everyone decline immunization. I encourage parents to educate themselves about the risk and benefits of immunization and to make a thoughtful decision for themselves and their children.

As a parent myself to two beautiful little boys, I am now faced with the decision about whether to immunize my child. We will never know why my sister reacted to the DPT vaccine, so it is very scary to think of exposing my children to the multitude of vaccines now required. But, I also have to worry about the possibility of my child being denied access to an education based on these decisions. I may be able to find a doctor willing to provide a medical exemption, but there is no guarantee, even in a case as uncommon as mine.

I urge you to allow all parents the right to make medical decisions for their own children by allowing a conscientious exemption to immunization. Other states with conscientious exemptions have shown that most parents will continue to vaccinate their children as scheduled. But, for those of us who have good reason to delay or avoid some vaccinations, we should have that right to make this medical decision without fear of our children being denied an education. Parents who would use this exemption have agonized over the decision and are thoughtful and educated about their choices. Please allow these parents to exercise their right to informed consent and parental rights by passing HB 2094.

Thank you,

Julie Patry