

## Edwards County Health Department

622 W 8th St Kinsley, KS 67547

Diana Rice, Administrator

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January 13, 2012

House Health and Human Services Committee

Re: Opposition to HB 2094 regarding expansion of philosophical exemptions to immunizations for children receiving care at licensed child care facilities or attending public school.

Members of the Committee:

Vaccines provide protection not only to the individual receiving the immunization but also to others in the community who are unable to be fully immunized due to age or medical reasons.

As a Health Department Administrator in a rural Kansas county I believe it is very important to allow the choices of others to be held responsible for those that choose to keep their children protected. We in public health have witnessed those affected by diseases that could have been prevented if they had been vaccinated. I believe if a parent chooses to allow their child to attend public school or be in a child care facility with other children then they should be protected as to protect those who may not have that choice. Allowing children to attend school unprotected opens the doors for bigger risks. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), vaccinations are one of the ten great public health achievements of the twentieth century. Vaccines have reduced or eliminated many diseases that once killed or seriously harmed infants, children, and adults.

Thank you,  
Diana Rice, Administrator  
Edwards County Health Department