



To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Rachelle Colombo  
Executive Director

Date: February 21, 2022

Re: HB 2498; Prohibiting the secretary of health and environment from requiring COVID-19 vaccination for children attending school.

The Kansas Medical Society appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony today in opposition to HB 2498. The bill prohibits the secretary of health and environment from requiring COVID-19 vaccination for ~~school~~ children in schools and childcare facilities. ~~All of the currently required vaccinations for school children have been determined both safe and necessary to prevent the outbreak of communicable diseases.~~ While the COVID-19 vaccination has received FDA approval ~~been approved~~ for school age children, there is no indication that KDHE is considering adding it to the ~~it is being considered for addition to the~~ list of required vaccines, particularly now as the pandemic appears to be subsiding throughout the state. Moreover, given the almost unprecedented political dynamics and implications which have characterized the response countrywide to this pandemic, it is very unlikely that KDHE would act to add a COVID vaccine mandate for children without securing a broad public consensus, including parents, school boards, local units of government, and the legislature. -

Simply put, this bill is not necessary. We respectfully request your opposition to HB 2498.