

March 29, 2021

We urge the Kansas Senate to keep employers in charge of business decisions and health professionals in charge of vaccines in Kansas. Vaccines are critical for keeping business and schools open.

SB 212, as amended, *takes away the freedom* for private businesses to decide what is in the best interest of their patrons and employees. Employers have the right to protect their employees and customers and establish employee qualifications, which can include health and safety standards. In fact, employers in our state have an obligation to provide a safe workplace for their employees and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission allows companies to require influenza and other vaccines.

Senate Bill 212 removes Kansas' ability to respond in a timely manner to the best scientific recommendations for childhood and adolescent immunizations for preventable, communicable diseases. The current administrative process allows for quarterly review of evidence-based recommendations for changes in the vaccine schedule. Removing the Secretary of KDHE's authority to make necessary changes in the vaccine schedule as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice in favor of a unpredictable and seasonal legislative process could result in delays endangering the health of Kansas children.

We respectfully urge you to reject Senate Bill 212.

Associated General Contractors of Kansas
BioKansas
CenturyLink
Greater KC Chamber of Commerce
Kansas Action for Children
Kansas Academy of Family Physicians
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Kansas Bankers Association
Kansas Beer Wholesalers Association
Kansas Chamber of Commerce
Kansas Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics
Kansas Contractors Association
Kansas Cooperative Council
Kansas Grain and Feed Association

Kansas Hospital Association
Kansas Livestock Association
Kansas Medical Society
Kansas Optometric Association
Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association
Kansas Society for Human Resource Management
Lenexa Chamber of Commerce
Mid America Immunization Coalition
National Meningitis Association
Olathe Chamber of Commerce
Overland Park Chamber
Renew Kansas Biofuels Association
Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce