

Public Health Is Purchasable

Within natural limitations; any community can determine its own death rate.

It is an established fact that the investment of a small portion of the tax dollar in adequate health protection services, provides for the people benefits that cannot be measured in dollars. Such an investment means: fewer cases of contagious disease; less suffering and crippling among children; fewer deaths and higher longevity rates; fewer deaths among mothers and infants; less time lost by industrial workers; school absences reduced and fewer defects found in school children.

The thrifty, progressive state does not overlook the constant losses that are occurring from preventable illness and deaths. A portion of the tax dollar is budgeted to provide an adequate health protection program, under the direction of trained health workers.

Therefore, consideration and active support is requested for proposed health laws, as outlined in this pamphlet.

F. C. BEELMAN, M. D., *Secretary*
KANSAS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

PROPOSED HEALTH LEGISLATION, 1945

I. Premarital Examination Law:

Purpose: The outstanding public health problem we face today in Kansas is the relatively high incidence of venereal diseases. Syphilis, the killer andcrippler of this group of diseases, not only is a serious menace to individual health, but to the basic structure of our civilization—the family. Syphilis destroys and cripples more Kansas' babies than any other disease. One way we can prevent the spread of this disease and stop its inroads into family life is by requiring blood tests on applicants for marriage certificates.

What the law would do: Under this bill both applicants for a marriage license would be required to present examination certificates showing that the ap-