

County of Placer

Board of Supervisors

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March 4, 2022

The Honorable Dr. Richard Pan
California State Senator, District 6
1021 O Street, Suite 7320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 871 (Pan) Minors: Public Health: Immunizations—OPPOSE

Dear Senator Pan:

On behalf of the Placer County Board of Supervisors, this letter is intended to document our opposition to Senate Bill 871 (Pan).

SB 871 removes the personal belief exemption and requires the COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of admitting a child as a pupil of any public or private elementary school, childcare center, day nursery, family day care, or home development center and therefore denies the rights of parents to make COVID-19 vaccination decision for their children. Long-term safety data on COVID-19 vaccines in children is absent, as is safety monitoring that will fully portray the risks. Additionally, allowing the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to unilaterally add any additional immunizations to the required list for educational enrollment, bypasses the Legislature's duties and gives full control to the Administration at the time as to what immunizations are required.

The vaccines have undoubtedly helped protect millions of people and there are surely others who could benefit from obtaining this immunization. However, mandating a vaccination despite an individual's personal belief only sows division and distrust rather than promote unity and public health.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in widespread and prolonged school closure since March of 2020. Alarming the achievement gap in education appears to be widening and many Californians have reported depression and other social and academic struggles among school children. Isolation, physical distancing requirements, remote learning environments have all contributed to the significant challenges California Children are facing. As we begin to turn the corner on COVID-19, it is not the time to alienate families by forcing them to choose between their personal beliefs and the enormous social and economic consequences of having to choose to keep their children home and out of school.

For these reasons, the Placer County Board of Supervisors respectfully opposes SB 871.

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California State Senator, District 6
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Should you have any questions regarding our position, please contact Joel Joyce, Legislative and Governmental Affairs Coordinator at jjoyce@placer.ca.gov or at (530) 889-4026.

Sincerely,



Cindy Gustafson, Chair (District 5)
Placer County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Honorable Members, Senate Committee on Health
Honorable Members, Placer County Legislative Delegation
The Honorable Gayle Garbolino-Mojica, Placer County Superintendent of Schools
Placer County Board of Supervisors
SYAL