

January 3, 2022

California State Senate
California State Assembly
State Capitol
10th and L Streets
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear California State Legislature,

RE: Return to Local Decision-Making Authority and Reconsideration of Proposed Vaccination Mandate

As elected school board trustees from California school districts and county boards of education, we have worked collaboratively with state and local health departments to keep our schools open. For nearly two years, we have followed the issued requirements to prioritize the health and safety of our students.

Our districts have operated in-person learning safely since reopening, many since fall of 2020 without ever needing to close a campus due to COVID-19, without a COVID-19 vaccination mandate.

However, we now have seen first-hand the growing mental health crisis among children and must in all decisions weigh the need for normalcy, acknowledging our responsibility to protect not only the physical, but also the social, emotional and mental health of our students.

Parents, including COVID-19 vaccinated and pro-vaccination parents, have expressly shared that they are uncomfortable subjecting their children to a vaccination for which there is no longitudinal data. We support staff and families maintaining the choice and freedom to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine for themselves and their children, but believe the Governor's proposed vaccination mandate removes choice from the equation by forcing individuals to submit to the mandate or lose access to in-person instruction (if they are students) and their jobs (if they are staff).

Therefore, we believe that parent/guardian choice in vaccination and other health decisions is crucial. We believe that staff choice in vaccination and other health decisions is critical. While we understand the goals of the Governor and the CDPH to stop the spread of COVID-19, we believe the Governor's proposed K-12 student vaccine mandate is ill-advised and in opposition to the educational and social-emotional goals of the State and our districts, therefore we urge the Governor to reconsider and rescind the proposed vaccine mandate and the State

Legislature not to implement a vaccine mandate as a condition of in-person instruction and employment in grades K-12.

Additionally, we expect the end of the State of Emergency, no later than March 31, 2022, to return full local control and decision-making authority back to local school boards. We expect all masking, testing and vaccination mandates to terminate at that time to allow a return to normal school activities as consistent with our local conditions on April 1, 2022 at the latest.

Our children have carried this burden for too long. Statewide masking, testing and vaccine mandates are not the answer. We are asking for your support to allow us to return normalcy to our schools. Our students, educators and families need your support.

Sincerely,

Kevin Alexander

Trustee, President

Millville Elementary School District

Marilyn Anderson

Trustee, Vice President

Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

Rebekah Anthony

Trustee

Loomis School District

Jeff Barke

Trustee, President

Orange County Classical Academy Charter School

Orange Unified District

Mari Barke

Trustee, President

Orange County Board of Education

Leandra Blades

Trustee, Clerk

Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

Jeff Boom

Trustee, Area 4

Marysville Joint Unified School District Board

Judy Bullockus

Trustee, Area 7

Capistrano Unified School District

Julie Constant

Trustee

Roseville City School District

Pete Constant

Trustee

Roseville Joint Union High School District

Dereck Counter

Trustee, Clerk

Rocklin Unified School District

Tom Courtney

Trustee, President

Lucerne Valley Unified

Gary Criddle

Trustee, Area 2

Marysville Joint Unified School District

Andrew Cruz

Trustee

Chino Valley Unified School District

Lisa Davis

Trustee

Capistrano Unified School District

Steven Fogg

Trustee

Clovis Unified School District

Tim Garman

Trustee, President

Happy Valley Union School District

Keith Giles

Trustee, Vice President

Lancaster School District

Heidi Hall

Trustee

Roseville Joint Union High School District

Jason Hansen

Trustee

Lucerne Valley Unified School District

Jim Harvey

Trustee

Lucerne Valley Unified School District

Susan Hatmaker

Trustee

Clovis Unified School District

Meghan Krafka

Trustee

Roseville City School District

Greg Kunath

Trustee

Saddleback Valley Unified School District

Julie Leavens-Hupp

Trustee, Vice President

Rocklin Unified School District

Rick Ledesma

Trustee, Area 7

Orange Unified School District

Chelsea LaGrange

Trustee, Clerk

Lucerne Valley Unified School District

Mary Little

Trustee

Kern County Board of Education

James Na

Trustee

Chino Valley Unified School District

Scott Otsuka

Trustee

Dry Creek Elementary School District

Rachelle Price

Trustee, President

Rocklin Unified School District

John Quintanilla

Trustee

Rosemead School District

Jessica Risler

Trustee, Vice President

Lucerne Valley Unified School District

Bruce Ross

Trustee

Redding Elementary School District

Tiffany Saathoff

Trustee

Rocklin Unified School District

Tim Shaw

Trustee

Orange County Board of Education

Wendy Sokalskiy

Trustee

Newcastle Elementary School District

Lisa Sparks, PHD

Trustee

Orange County Board of Education

Founding Dean, McGaw Endowed Professor in Behavioral Sciences, *Chapman University*

Bob Stody

Vice President/Clerk

Ramona Unified School District

Robert Varich

Trustee

Campbell union High School District

Dr. Ken Williams

Vice President

Orange County Board of Education

Sandy Winterlein

Trustee, Vice President

Millville Elementary School District

Kris Wyatt

Trustee

Western Placer Unified School District

Tony Yadon

Trustee

Lincoln Unified School District

CC: Governor Gavin Newsom