HAMILL LAW & CONSULTING

March 23, 2022

California State Senate Committee on Health Committee on Education

Re: Alliance of Los Angeles County Parents Oppose SB 1479

Dear Chairman Pan, Chairwoman Leyva, and Honorable Members of the California State Senate Committees on Health and Education:

I write on behalf of the Alliance of Los Angeles County Parents ("Alliance"), a community group organized for the purpose of representing the interests of Los Angeles County children subjected to harmful and restrictive COVID-19 mandates by local education agencies, the County of Los Angeles, and the State of California.

The Alliance advocates for fair, humane, and equal treatment of all children within Los Angeles County, for removal of all unnecessary, harmful, and unjustified restrictions against children, and for providing children with a full return to normalcy.

COVID poses little risk of serious disease for most children. COVID is a flu-like risk for unvaccinated children. ^{1 2} The list of life-threatening hazards that pose greater risk to children than COVID includes accidents, assault, cancer, intentional self-harm, and congenital malformations.³

Creating a permanent program for COVID testing is unnecessary and overly burdensome for local education agencies struggling with scarce resources to provide a basic education for California children. These resources would be much better spent on the core mission of our local education agencies, which is to provide a world-class education for all students, from early childhood to adulthood.

Creating a permanent COVID testing program will detract from the important work of rehabilitating California students who have suffered extreme learning loss and behavioral problems as a result of our state's COVID policies.

California schools do not have a permanent testing program for flu, RSV, or any other common childhood illnesses. This begs the question: who stands to benefit from implementing a permanent COVID testing program? It's certainly not the kids.

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid_weekly/index.htm

² https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden/

³ https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/child-health.htm

Sincerely,

Julie A. Hamill Alliance of Los Angeles County Parents