

HAMILL LAW & CONSULTING

March 2, 2022

California State Senate
Committee on Health
Committee on Education

Re: Alliance of Los Angeles County Parents Opposition to SB 871

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.

SB 871 would unjustifiably deprive unvaccinated children of in-person education.

The following information is pulled from the Urgency of Normal toolkit, prepared by world-renowned physicians and available in full at www.urgencyofnormal.com.

- COVID poses little risk of serious disease for most students. COVID is a flu-like risk for unvaccinated children.^{1 2}
- As a result of government mandates imposed to “fight the pandemic,” children are experiencing alarming levels of anxiety, depression, and eating disorders, and suspected suicide attempts.^{3 4 5}
- The toll of school closures and social isolation on children’s mental health cannot be overstated and will require both immediate- and long-term investigation and action to fully assess and address the impact.⁶

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

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

³ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2782796>

⁴ <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/148/4/e2021052201/179731/Medical-Admissions-Among-Adolescents-With-Eating>

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7024e1.htm>

⁶ Editorial from Journal of the American Medical Association Pediatrics, January 18, 2022, <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2788076>

- Maintaining in-person learning is critical for protecting our students. There is no scientific justification for treating students differently based on vaccination status.
- Low vaccination rates in children have been used to justify keeping children under restrictions, and some institutions are excluding children from important opportunities based on vaccination status.⁷
- True immunity rates are much higher than vaccination rates. A large proportion of children have developed immunity from COVID infection, which is at least as potent and durable as that from vaccination.^{8 9}
- Omicron transmits efficiently in both vaccinated and unvaccinated people.^{10 11} Accordingly, a person's vaccination status has little relevance to others.

The Alliance opposes SB 871 and all other legislation that deprives children of in-person education and normalcy based on a child's COVID vaccination status.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Hamill

⁷ <https://www.calacademy.org/reopening>

⁸ <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7104e1.htm>

⁹ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41590-021-01089-8>

¹⁰ <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.12.27.21268278v1.full.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.12.30.21268565v1.full.pdf>