

Support HB 1292

This bill ensures appropriate separation of powers: healthcare and education. The schools should not be mandating healthcare decisions to their subjects, and all such decisions have to go through the Department of Health first.

We all have enough recent experience with being subjected to the policies school systems have established on their own. After two years it is hard to observe much success from those policies - a large percentage of children and staff get infected. Worse yet, the policies keep changing arbitrarily based on unverified metrics that are hard to track. No wonder CDC no longer recommends universal case investigation and contact tracing.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/prioritization.html>

As COVID vaccination does not prevent transmission or infection and targets an obsolete variant, there is no good reason to universally require or promote the vaccines. In fact, they do not work in children, and thus present all risk and no benefit. The more accurate UK data shows that vaccines have no effect on severity of illness and may help spread the variants.

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.02.25.22271454v1>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1058464/Vaccine-surveillance-report-week-9.pdf

As schools are ill-equipped to deal with pandemics, it is best to leave the healthcare decisions to doctors and patients. In fact, natural immunity is more effective than vaccination alone, so children and staff that recover from a contagious disease provide protection for the rest of the community.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/prior-covid-infection-more-protective-than-vaccination-during-delta-surge-us-2022-01-19/>

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.08.19.21262111v1.full-text>

The decision whether to take any vaccine must be a private, voluntary decision between healthcare providers and patients based on the individual risk/benefit profile of each patient, not on government incentives. Collecting and using this information in a broadly available system abolishes any medical privacy one could hope for. Collecting vaccination status makes children's medical information especially vulnerable to exposure and unauthorized use.

Having vaccination information available to various personnel lays the groundwork for discrimination against unvaccinated people. Public school policies already demonstrated that in their COVID protocols. Such unequal treatment has caused hardship to some families and undoubtedly contributed to increases in mental health issues.

Please support HB 1292. It is needed for both school administration and school community to not stress and fight over a matter on which they have little control. It would eliminate unnecessary anxiety about the mandates and allow everyone to focus on education.