

HB1292
SHARPE
FAV

Dear Delegates,

My high schooler is in the theater program, and on his audition day, I got a call that he had been a close contact of a covid positive classmate.

Neither kid had symptoms. It could have been a false positive. We don't know. But we know that they were within six feet of each other.

A vaccinated child would have caused no concern, despite the questionable efficacy of the vaccine. A vaccinated child can contract and can spread covid. But a vaccinated child does not trigger the quarantine alarm.

The policy is that only unvaccinated children quarantine.

And so because my child had not been vaccinated, he was to be picked up at that moment.

I balked. I explained the audition, his hard work, his excitement. I apologized. I was *not* going to collect him.

When we calculate the value of protecting kids from covid, we undervalue educational and social tradeoffs. This quarantine policy has misplaced priorities and is unscientific in its implementation.

Either a covid exposure is a danger, or it is not a danger. But it is not a danger to an unvaccinated student exclusively.

They told me, well then, my child would come home in a police car. I said that I understood. But I deeply disagreed with the discriminatory policy and would not participate in it.

I waited for the police car.

Instead I got another phone call. They had remeasured the exposure zone and realized my kid had been six feet **and six inches** away from the covid kid. No quarantine after all.

For six inches.

This bill asks that we quit unscientific policies. This bill follows the science. If covid doesn't discriminate between vaccinated and unvaccinated people, our quarantine policy also should not discriminate.

Sincerely,

Julie Sharpe