

Dear Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to urge you to give an unfavorable report to SB 628: School-Based Health Centers – Services, Infrastructure and Funding. I am asking you to give an unfavorable report for the following reasons:

First, it is not appropriate to require school healthcare centers to build infrastructure to implement the CDC Vaccines for Children program because children should receive vaccines in a setting where both the child's primary care provider and the child's parent(s) can assess the child's medical history and make a decision that is in the best interest of the child and does not infringe on parents' right to make medical decisions for their children. Although the bill was withdrawn, Senator Kagan's Vaccine Minor Consent Bill (SB 378) illustrates the need to protect parental rights to make medical decisions regarding their child's vaccination status. SB 628 would provide the physical infrastructure needed to cut parents out of this decision once politicians like Senator Kagan find a way to push forward their profit driven agenda. It is your job to protect parental rights, which is why you must reject this bill.

Second, it is dangerous and inappropriate to implement a one-size-fits-all mass vaccination infrastructure to circumvent the process of parental consent. Had this infrastructure been in place during the COVID pandemic it is easy to imagine that state or local government could have mandated the COVID vaccine and given it to children without parental consent. I have attached a study that demonstrates that the highest risk of myocarditis after COVID-19 vaccination occurred in 12-15 year-old males. Given this serious health risk and the low risk of serious COVID complications for this age group, parents should have the right to determine whether their child receives the COVID vaccine. This bill would create the infrastructure necessary to infringe that right in the future. Children can receive free healthcare services, including vaccines, through existing healthcare infrastructure where parents are present, so this bill is unnecessary and can only do harm in violating parental rights to make medical decisions for their children.

Finally, the CDC ACIP Committee has recommended adding COVID-19 vaccines to the routine immunization schedule for children 18 and under and have stated that the "benefits outweigh the risks" despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. I have already included a study demonstrating the youth do face risks from COVID-19 vaccination but they face very low risks of severe outcomes from a naturally occurring infection, which will also give them a durable natural immunity. CDC federal programs promoting mass administration of vaccines to children without sufficient evidence of safety and efficacy must not be linked with or required by public schools funded by state tax dollars.

For all the reasons listed above, I urge the committee to give an unfavorable report on SB 628.

Sincerely,

Justin Kuk

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