

Subject: SB895-5

Dear Senator Arnie Roblan and Members of the Committee,

This letter is in opposition to SB895-5. Though there has been some positive movement in this legislation, there are still many gaping holes that have not been addressed and which make this legislation of no value to constituents.

Since the legislation would only require that vaccination rates be posted for students, it leaves a large portion of the school population unaccounted for. If part of the goal of the legislation is to provide parts with immunocompromised children to decide if their child should attend school or not, then we must report on the school population as a whole. That includes teachers, administrators, custodians and other support personnel, as well as the many volunteer parents who help at our schools. If they are not part of the equation, then it leaves a huge gap of information out that a parent cannot use to make a decision for their immunocompromised child. That is, if the goal of this legislation is truly to allay the fears of this portion of a school's population. The gap here is not closed nor will it be closed as has even been pointed out by the author of this legislation. It is unlawful to force employees to vaccinate. And those employees are just as likely to pose a risk as children with vaccine exemptions, or even children who have recently been vaccinated with live virus vaccines whom are still shedding the virus. Without a view of the whole population and of all the potential risks, then this legislation is flawed and of no value.

It is of interest to note here that my daughters caught Pertussis from their vaccinated grandmother, who went undiagnosed for several weeks. At the time, they were two years old and seven months old. My daughters did not require hospitalization nor were they deathly sick as the media continues to portray this disease. In fact, they never even developed the "whoop" associated with the disease. I bring this up here because it was an adult that they caught Pertussis from – the same portion of the school population for whom vaccination rates cannot and will not be posted. How then can any parent, regardless of whether immunocompromised or not, truly make an informed decision about the potential risks of their children at school? The fact here is that posting the vaccination rates for school children only will create discord, fear, and will lead to bullying and scorn for those parents who have chosen to exempt their children from even one vaccine.

I urge you once again esteemed members of the Education Committee to vote No on SB895-5.

Respectfully yours,

Alex Gonzalez
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