

## Re-Open Schools: Public Health and Medical Experts Agree

Hello Committee Members,

I am writing to you in support of bill LC 21 to provide liability insurance to school districts in order for them to re-open. We have been told repeatedly that this is a huge blocker for most schools who are concerned about potential lawsuits from citizens around Covid should they open and we as parents wholeheartedly support anything that allows for kids to get back into the classrooms sooner rather than later.

I am adding my name to the long list of concerned and angry parents who are baffled and fed up with how the public school re-openings have not been prioritized. The evidence is there that schools are not spreaders of this virus, the medical and public health officials are backing it...it's time to re-open schools. Those who are not comfortable can opt-out, including teachers. There is a way to make this happen that does not include simply de-funding districts and asking for federal assistance that doesn't seem to be coming. Many things, like this liability coverage to protect schools, can get our kids back in the classrooms in 1-2 months, not next Fall (or God forbid, later, as recent metrics set by the state suggest). Other ideas include getting creative - loosen requirements for subs, if needed (something that should be done anyway!).

Please our children are begging you to put them first. **PUT THEM FIRST.** Have you seen recent statistics around failing students? Children committing suicide? Mental health decline for kids? They've suffered enough, they need school and their activities and they need teachers to step up to the plate and do their duty.

States across this country are coming together to demand that schools re-open. Parents are finding their voices to protest because apparently the squeaky wheel gets the grease and we've been too complacent, thinking you as elected officials would see the importance of this eventually. Put your politics and special interests aside and do the right thing for our children! School and sports/activities must be re-opened as we learn to live with this virus and while both natural and vaccinated immunity is achieved. I want us to stay healthy but **their mental health and education are being sacrificed without listening to common sense evidence.**

**Dr. Fauci's remarks:**

[https://madison.com/wsj/opinion/editorial/dr-anthony-fauci-sends-a-message-to-wisconsin-schools/article\\_dc9da817-0631-5e68-9137-fb12a90087e4.html?fbclid=IwAR0FRfl--waq4taClcu41g6TQJvZQSm\\_hhEBpf9IIG-uTTP8tD-27h6mxo](https://madison.com/wsj/opinion/editorial/dr-anthony-fauci-sends-a-message-to-wisconsin-schools/article_dc9da817-0631-5e68-9137-fb12a90087e4.html?fbclid=IwAR0FRfl--waq4taClcu41g6TQJvZQSm_hhEBpf9IIG-uTTP8tD-27h6mxo)

**Dr. Asish K. Jha's remarks:**

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2020/11/03/schools-need-to-be-bolder-about-reopening.html>

**Science/data:**

<https://www.opb.org/article/2020/11/30/oregon-school-covid-19-transmission-in-person-learning/?fbclid=IwAR1jAuVBrAulwp31tcCf8u1vhIT9UOEVMZHHjsTXYuWI0pQ5bIP-EA6D6mo>

Please understand that decisions now have consequences later. The longer you disregard science, evidence and the will of your people, the more you will lose their support. In both funding/population and elections. You do have a stake in this game, it's just longer term. Your constituents, regardless of their political leanings, have been watching and learning. We see the data of science and medical experts and understands the calculated risks that can be taken. Let the districts have the ability to open schools without fear of retribution, let them at least offer an opt-in scenario where parents sign a waiver. Something! **Make it happen, open up our schools to those who want to go.**

Thank you,  
Tera Hilton