

Submitter: Karen Chirre
On Behalf Of: My Community
Committee: House Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

I strongly oppose SB1598.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck our communities, we found ourselves in an unprecedented situation. Like many others, I was faced with the daunting choice of receiving the COVID vaccine or risking my job. As a single parent, the pressure was immense. The thought of losing my position—a role I had tirelessly committed to for over two decades—was not just a concern for my career but a direct threat to my family's well-being.

I was forced to make a health decision under duress, feeling as though my choice was stripped away. This experience was not just about the vaccine; it was about the fundamental right to make informed health decisions for myself and my children. Now, with SB1598, I fear we are on a similar path—one that could once again undermine our personal freedoms and rights.

This bill would empower the government to dictate health choices, effectively eroding our autonomy. We should not allow our government to insert itself into our most personal health decisions. Health care is not a one-size-fits-all scenario; each individual has unique circumstances, and we must be trusted to make choices that are best for our families.

I urge you to consider the implications of SB1598—not just for individuals like me, but for everyone in our community. The government's involvement in our health care decisions can lead to distrust and fear, creating a society where individuals feel they must comply with mandates for fear of losing their livelihoods and in some cases, their lives.

In closing, I implore you to oppose SB1598. Let us protect our rights and ensure that health care decisions remain in the hands of individuals and families, not government entities. Thank you for your time and consideration.