Dear Senator,

**Please vote no on HB 2086**. This is shortsighted and dangerous legislation.

Every child deserves an education. Even those with existing medical conditions deserve as safe a school environment as possible. There is already a process full of safeguards in place prior to implementing any new vaccine requirement, and there is already a mechanism by which parents may exempt their children from a required vaccine.

COVID has already put at least 4,708 Arizona children in the hospital since the beginning of the pandemic. Tragically, 62 of those children lost their lives. Perhaps worse, there are indications that perhaps up to ¼ of children infected by COVID have developed some form of long-COVID, with increases seen in diabetes, cardiac complications, and other chronic conditions. Nationally, the Omicron variant led to children making up 20% of all those hospitalized for COVID, and no one knows what a future variant may bring. Yet this legislation would prevent us from attempting to protect school children, no matter what we may face in the future. If another wave of a serious variant occurs, schools might have no option but to close again, which we’ve already seen to be disastrous for education.

In addition, some parents wish to take the immunization rate within a school into account when deciding to which school they choose to send their children. This is especially important to parents of children with underlying health conditions that place them at higher risk for serious COVID infection.

Please do not take away one of the few tools we may have in the future to keep all children safely in school. Please vote no on HB 2086.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

An Arizona Citizen