

From: [Armand Luzak](#)
To: [Joseph P. Filippi](#)
Subject: Public Comment for 8.20.21
Date: Thursday, August 19, 2021 3:26:42 PM

My name is Amber Luzak and I'm a concerned honors college student attending UNLV's College of Fine Arts and College of Liberal Arts. I'm writing to express my complete support for the proposed amendment to NAC 441A.755, which would implement a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for students enrolling in classes at NSHE institutions.

Mandated vaccination for in-person attendance at state universities is a common sense preventative measure and to suggest otherwise is completely false. The courts have already demonstrated that vaccine mandates are not a violation of individual Constitutional rights; the Seventh Circuit affirmed Indiana University's recent implementation of a COVID-19 vaccination policy earlier this month. The Court stated that under *Jacobson v. Massachusetts* (1905), "there can't be a constitutional problem with vaccination against SARS-CoV-2," because there is no fundamental right to refuse necessary public health measures such as vaccines. In fact, vaccination has been part of America's history since the Revolutionary War: George Washington required his troops to be inoculated for smallpox after it became clear that quarantining individual soldiers was not effective enough to prevent its spread.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a public health emergency that requires proactive measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on NSHE campuses, especially with the strong presence of the fast spreading COVID-19 DELTA variant in Nevada and the rest of the U.S. With Nevada hospitals hitting capacity yet again and Nevada being one of the 8 top states leading in amount of COVID-19 cases in the US, we owe it to our frontline health care workers and our community to implement common sense preventative measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in NSHE institutions and the greater community.

We also owe it to the immune-compromised, children who are unable to get the vaccine, and the most vulnerable of our friends and fellow Nevadans to be responsible and require vaccination for all NSHE students. By protecting ourselves, we protect the safety of these vulnerable populations who rely on the rest of us to take their safety into consideration. To suggest otherwise is ableist and a gross neglect of our fellow community members. In the words of UN Secretary-General António Guterres: "In an interconnected world, none of us is safe until all of us are safe."

I urge you to make the right decision and protect the health and safety of our state.