

From: [Brittany Fiedler](#)
To: [Joseph P. Filippi](#)
Subject: Public Comment for 8/20/21 Meeting
Date: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 5:14:52 PM

Hello,

My name is Brittany Paloma Fiedler, and I am an Assistant Professor and Teaching and Learning Librarian at UNLV, although I write to you in my capacity as a private citizen. In my job, I teach information literacy and research skills to over 1,500 students a year. It is a great privilege to work with students on understanding the information lifecycle, particularly discussing peer review, academic publishing, and the open access movement. It is clear from reading the other public comments that have been submitted thus far that many concerned members of our community would benefit from more instruction to learn information literacy, more opportunities to sharpen their critical thinking, and more access to scholarly research publications. The movement to convince the public that vaccines are unsafe is strong, and it is responsible for many deaths and illnesses.

I stand with the 632 faculty members, 90 staff members, and 451 students who have signed the petition (so far) for mandatory vaccinations on our campus. I am vaccinated, but my 10 month old daughter is not. I know that if I were to get a breakthrough infection, I would probably not be hospitalized and I would almost certainly survive. However, if I were unaware that I had COVID because of the very mild symptoms I would most likely present with, I can pass it to my baby, and she could get very sick. The Delta variant is affecting children differently, and we have far fewer pediatric ICU beds and medical personnel in Nevada than those for adults.

I know the vaccine is safe. All the research supports that. I know that the vaccine side effects are much milder than COVID's side effects. All the research supports that. I think it is a great tragedy that so many members in our community do not know that, but that is why we have governing bodies who create regulations to keep us safe. I went to UNLV for my undergraduate degree and one of my graduate degrees, and I did absolutely no research on the vaccines I needed to have before enrolling, and I think that's pretty normal. The average UNLV student doesn't need to know how the vaccines were created for measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, or meningitis. They just know they have to submit proof of vaccination before they can register for classes, and they do. COVID does not and should not be any different. UNLV serves 30,000 students, and I will be seeing almost one thousand of them this semester. A vaccine requirement keeps me safe, keeps them safe, and keeps people like my baby girl who cannot be vaccinated safe.

Thank you,
Brittany Paloma Fiedler
Assistant Professor
Teaching & Learning Librarian