

**From:** [Karen](#)  
**To:** [Joseph P. Filippi](#)  
**Subject:** Meeting on August 20  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021 6:18:16 PM

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Dear State Board of Health,

I am writing you today in regards to the meeting where you will be discussing requiring COVID-19 vaccines for college students.

As a parent of a college student, I am against this requirement for several reasons.

1. My daughter has made the decision to not get the vaccine because she already has the antibodies as proven by a blood test. She and I both had the virus. I did not have any of the normal symptoms of fever, cough, or prolonged loss of taste or smell (only 3 days). I have asthma and did just fine. She had little to no symptoms and we did not actually know she had it until she had a blood test along with some other blood work. Additionally, we did not isolate from the other 2 in the family and they never got it as proven, again, by blood tests for other blood work.
2. This decision to get the vaccine should be made by the person and their personal physician. Not everyone should get this vaccine. There is plenty of cause for alarm at the risks from this vaccine. We know people personally who have died from the vaccine. We also know many who did not fare so well from the virus itself. This is sad, for sure. But we know many, many more who have had the virus and did just fine without medical intervention. This virus is not a death sentence and should not be treated as such.
3. The numbers are not accurate as I know plenty of people who had the virus and never got tested. For example, a family of four where one tests positive and the others have the same symptoms feel that it is obvious what they had so do not get tested. These are never recorded. This means that the survival rate of this virus is even higher than the known 99.8%.
4. Similarly, we know that the death rate is also not accurate in that many people were listed as a COVID death but in fact were not. We know people personally who this is the case and the families are very angry and hurt by this.
5. This vaccine was rushed and did not go through the normal testing process. Additionally, the FDA has talked about approving it soon which means that they are still not going through the normal testing process. These things take time.
6. This vaccine is proving to be not as effective as once was thought since they are now discussing booster shots for those who got the shot only 8 months ago. It is very curious that we are now having a surge, in the summer, among the vaccinated and unvaccinated alike. In fact, it is being proven that the vaccinated are now giving it to the unvaccinated. This seems a bit off to me.
7. The coercion involved in trying to get people to take the vaccine is not right. Cash prizes offered in the form of scholarships for this vaccine is a lot like bribery. Scholarships should be based on academic merit, not whether someone has a particular vaccine or not. Likewise, extra credit should be given for class specific work not getting a particular vaccine that has nothing to do with the knowledge gained in the class.
8. We are supposed to be inclusive but the division between the vaccinated and the unvaccinated is starting to feel a bit like the segregation of times past. Only the vaccinated will be able to do anything, including going the grocery store to supply for our most basic needs. This does not feel very much like the freedom that America is all about. People are having enough trouble as it is, we don't need to make it worse by shunning or ostracizing them for this too. Forcing or shaming people into getting this vaccine is the wrong way to go about it.

9. Students should never be put in a position of having to decide whether to get a vaccine or graduate college. These students have worked very hard and have paid a lot of money into your institution and it would be a disgrace for them to not be allowed to finish their degrees because of this, especially the ones that are close to graduating.
10. We do not know the long term risks of this vaccine. As in the case of Thalidomide, we did not know the problems until babies started being born with birth defects. Our college students are approaching the age of starting families and the risks to the unborn are simply too great. Our boys and girls could find themselves with either no children or many children with birth defects due to this vaccine. We simply cannot know yet.
11. We are not necessarily against getting vaccines. We are all up to date on all other vaccines as we do recognize the importance of them. However, this one comes with too great a risk that we are not ready to take just yet.
12. This vaccine is appropriate for older persons and other high risk groups. College students are not a high risk group for this virus. As of now, those who want the vaccine have gotten it, many have the antibodies by having the virus, and the rest of the people have made the choice to not get the vaccine and are, quite frankly, getting very angry at how it is being forced on them.
13. Mask mandates, mandatory testing for students, shutdowns, and distance learning are hurting our children, and our communities, more than this virus or vaccine. Depression, suicide, anxiety, heart attacks, domestic abuse, and violence are all symptoms of a much deeper problem and will only get worse if this continues. A wise person once said, "The cure cannot be worse than the problem itself." Right now the cure has become much worse and this is not the answer.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

**Karen L. Burke**

Karen L. Burke  
UNR Parent and Alumni