

San Mateo County Democratic Party
Resolution Supporting Senate Bill 276

WHEREAS, Senate Bill (SB) 276, authored by Senator Richard Pan, would require the State Department of Public Health to develop a statewide standardized medical exemption request form, require the State Public Health Officer or their designee to review medical exemption requests for schools with overall exemption rates above 5% for all students, and require the department to create and maintain a database of approved medical exemption requests by physicians, and to make the database accessible to local health officers; and

WHEREAS, Children in California must be fully vaccinated to attend public or private schools, unless a physician affirms they meet the requirements for a medical exemption. However, since California's inoculation law was amended in 2015 to eliminate non-medical exemptions, the number of children with medical exemptions has grown considerably. According to public health officials, the rise in medical exemptions is associated with an increase in physicians issuing exemptions for children without medical justifications; and

WHEREAS, SB 276, would close this loophole by empowering the state health department to review and invalidate exemptions lacking medical validity. Under this bill, physicians providing five or more medical exemptions would then have all such exemptions reviewed. Furthermore, exemption reviews for schools with kindergarten classes with exemptions exceeding 5% would be similarly required. The department would also maintain a database of exemptions that would allow officials to monitor which doctors are granting the exemptions, and respond to outbreaks in a more timely and less resource-intensive manner; and

THEREFORE BE RESOLVED, that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee calls upon the State Legislature and Governor to support Senate Bill (SB) 276; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee directs the corresponding secretary to transmit official copies of this resolution to the members of the state legislative delegation representing San Mateo County.