

March 3rd 2025
SB 29 Opponent testimony

To whom it may concern,

Honestly I cannot believe we are discussing this in the midst of the worst measles outbreak the US has seen in decades. This outbreak has already caused the death of one child and hospitalized several others. Measles is one of the most contagious viruses known and the only way to control an outbreak is to quarantine affected individuals and vaccinate all who are able to be vaccinated. Removing the possibility of enforcing quarantines affects us all. It makes no scientific sense to remove this important tool and to allow those infected with contagious diseases to interact fully with society while infectious. In a day and age when we are seeing more contagious illness spread, not less, we should be making it easier for people to isolate when they are sick. We should be strengthening public health authority and the social safety net, not weakening it. When people are not forced to quarantine, they will go to work and school and more people will be infected. The increased spread of illness costs all of us more in the long run in terms of morbidity, mortality and in economic stress. The best way to handle a contagious illness is to prevent its spread quickly and thoroughly, not let it spread unchecked. I hope you will oppose this bill.

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