

Senator Warren and Judiciary Committee Members,

Covid-19 and the manner in which it was handled, has caused people to lose their lives, their livelihoods, as well as many other consequences. Many of these consequences are ongoing and it may be years before we know the full extent of them. While this Bill is a step in the right direction, I'm not convinced it goes far enough. The Bill requires schools to recognize vaccine exemptions. This is awesome, but why would we even allow schools to require Covid-19 vaccinations when, to my knowledge, a flu vaccine is not required for students? This isn't mentioned in the Bill, but why are we allowing schools (churches and non-medical businesses) to promote vaccine clinics? I realize they aren't performing the actual vaccinations, but aren't promoting a vaccine, especially an EUA vaccine, beyond their scope?

I understand that in the beginning many in charge were fearful and didn't know what the best approach was to handling this disaster so they blindly followed the CDC. For many this continued throughout the "pandemic" and they never searched for alternative solutions. I think many of them enjoyed the power. I'm not sure requiring a review of mandates, gathering restrictions, etc. every 30 days is enough. An example would be USD259. They passed a mask mandate in August of 2021. They did not look at it again until February 2022 when the issue was forced by new board members. While the 30 day rule would have required they review the mandate at least 5 times during that period, they were enjoying the power and ignoring any data. They kept track of weekly positivity and quarantine rates, but even when the numbers were well below 5% they didn't want to change anything.

I am curious what the source of the compensation would be? Will it require an increase in taxes so that schools and counties have the funds to compensate those who suffered damage? Or will the insurance companies be required to pay, which in turn will affect taxpayers with increased premiums? I am all for compensating those who were damaged, but the schools and the elected officials caused this problem, not the taxpayers. There is a potential for the source of the compensation to cause even more damage to people.

In the big picture I support this bill. I do think improvements can be made and the source of the compensation should be considered.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karin Lee Vashburg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.