

**VIA FEDEX AND EMAIL<sup>1</sup>**

December 19, 2022

American Medical Association  
Board of Trustees and House of Delegates  
AMA Plaza, 330 N. Wabash Avenue, Suite 39300  
Chicago, IL 60611-5885

*Re: American Medical Association Interim Meeting Debate on COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements*

Dear American Medical Association Board of Trustees and House of Delegates Members:

We write on behalf of Informed Consent Action Network (“**ICAN**”) regarding the recent meeting of the American Medical Association (“**AMA**”) House of Delegates in which it considered whether the AMA should recommend that schools and universities adopt COVID-19 vaccine mandates.<sup>2</sup> The AMA should reject any such measure.

To start, such mandates are illegal in many states. As of November 3, 2022, twenty-one states, covering 40% of Americans, have banned student COVID-19 vaccine mandates.<sup>3</sup>

**Beyond illegality, coercion is the tool of those who cannot persuade on the merits; it is the tool of bullies, criminals, and dictators who cannot convince others of their point without force.**

Every person has, or should have, the right to decide whether to receive a medical product voluntarily and free from coercion. Without bullying. Without threats of expulsion from school, work, etc. If you cannot convince a patient to obtain a medical product after conveying its benefits and risks, then **that is called informed consent. They were informed and did not consent.**<sup>4</sup>

While the above truths are simple to grasp, self-interest blinds even the most obvious observation. And the AMA is plainly blinded by its self-interest to better the financial health of its members, and COVID-19 vaccine uptake streams billions of dollars to administrators.

Even worse, the AMA has not only failed to rise above the financial interest of its members to do what is best for the American public, it is playing politics and, as it almost always does, is

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<sup>1</sup> The email recipients are listed at the close of the letter.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/ama/101727>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nashp.org/states-enact-policies-to-support-students-transition-back-to-school/>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FDA-2022-P-0872-0001>.

taking the side that increases revenue for its members. (As one writer recently observed, “A.M.A. meetings are like political conventions.”<sup>5</sup>) For example, AMA President Jack Resneck, Jr., MD has repeatedly denounced politicians interfering in exam rooms.<sup>6</sup> But while the AMA takes this position with regard to providing gender affirming drugs, it does not denounce an incredibly egregious example of political interference in the doctor-patient relationship – California’s Assembly Bill 2098 – which criminalizes **pure speech** of physicians who say anything even slightly contradictorily to the amorphous and ever shifting “contemporary scientific consensus.”<sup>7</sup> This contradiction, however, is easily understood by “following the money.”

While not in the financial interest of its members or its political bend, the AMA should nevertheless put the cornerstone of medicine first: informed consent. The AMA should adopt a policy that encourages its members to understand any concerns – be they rooted in evidence, data, or real-world experience – and address them with data and studies. Mandating procedures and silencing any questions or dissent will without a doubt inflict incredible damage to the profession in the end. **Coercion and bullying never end well.**

ICAN respectfully requests that the AMA decline to enforce or promote any policy promoting COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

Sincerely,



Aaron Siri, Esq.  
Elizabeth A. Brehm, Esq.  
Catherine Cline, Esq.

### **AMA Members Sent Letter by Email**

#### Board of Trustees

[Jack.Resneck@ama-assn.org](mailto:Jack.Resneck@ama-assn.org)  
[Jesse.Ehrenfeld@ama-assn.org](mailto:Jesse.Ehrenfeld@ama-assn.org)  
[Gerald.Harmon@ama-assn.org](mailto:Gerald.Harmon@ama-assn.org)  
[Bruce.Scott@ama-assn.org](mailto:Bruce.Scott@ama-assn.org)  
[Lisa.Egbert@ama-assn.org](mailto:Lisa.Egbert@ama-assn.org)  
[Sandra.Fryhofer@ama-assn.org](mailto:Sandra.Fryhofer@ama-assn.org)  
[Willie.Underwood@ama-assn.org](mailto:Willie.Underwood@ama-assn.org)  
[Bobby.Mukkamala@ama-assn.org](mailto:Bobby.Mukkamala@ama-assn.org)  
[Michael.Suk@ama-assn.org](mailto:Michael.Suk@ama-assn.org)  
[David.Aizuss@ama-assn.org](mailto:David.Aizuss@ama-assn.org)  
[Lase.Ajayi@ama-assn.org](mailto:Lase.Ajayi@ama-assn.org)  
[Madelyn.Butler@ama-assn.org](mailto:Madelyn.Butler@ama-assn.org)

[Alex.Ding@ama-assn.org](mailto:Alex.Ding@ama-assn.org)  
[Willarda.Edwards@ama-assn.org](mailto:Willarda.Edwards@ama-assn.org)  
[Scott.Ferguson@ama-assn.org](mailto:Scott.Ferguson@ama-assn.org)  
[Drayton.Harvey@ama-assn.org](mailto:Drayton.Harvey@ama-assn.org)  
[Marilyn.Heine@ama-assn.org](mailto:Marilyn.Heine@ama-assn.org)  
[Pratistha.Koirala@ama-assn.org](mailto:Pratistha.Koirala@ama-assn.org)  
[Ilse.Levin@ama-assn.org](mailto:Ilse.Levin@ama-assn.org)  
[Thomas.Madejski@ama-assn.org](mailto:Thomas.Madejski@ama-assn.org)  
[Harris.Pastides@ama-assn.org](mailto:Harris.Pastides@ama-assn.org)

#### House of Delegates

[hod@ama-assn.org](mailto:hod@ama-assn.org)  
[Roger.Brown@ama-assn.org](mailto:Roger.Brown@ama-assn.org)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.newyorker.com/science/annals-of-medicine/the-fight-within-the-american-medical-association>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/speeches/president-jack-resneck-jr-md-inauguration-address-2022-annual-meeting>; <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/speeches/jack-resneck-jr-md-address-2022-interim-meeting-hod>.

<sup>7</sup> [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB2098](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB2098).