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8		
9	SUPERIOR COURT O	F THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
10	COUNT	Y OF SAN DIEGO
11	LET THEM CHOOSE, an initiative of	Case No. 37-2021-00043172-CU-WM-CTL
12	LET THEM BREATHE, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation;	COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE AND
13	Plaintiffs,	DECLARATORY RELIEF AND PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE
14	v.	Department:
15	SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL	Judge:
16	DISTRICT; and DOES 1–50,	Action filed:
17	Defendants.	Trial date:
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follows:

I. PARTIES.

Plaintiffs. A.

Plaintiff LET THEM CHOOSE is an initiative of LET THEM BREATHE, a 1. California nonprofit public benefit corporation that represents a community of more than 20,000 parents. Let Them Breathe has been advocating for mask choice since the start of 2021. The Let Them Choose initiative aims to protect families' rights to make personal medical decisions and students' right to an in-person education.

Plaintiff LET THEM CHOOSE, an initiative of LET THEM BREATHE, complains of

Defendants SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT; and DOES 1-50, inclusive, as

В. Defendants.

- 2. Defendant San Diego Unified School District ("SDUSD") is a school district in the County of San Diego that serves more than 121,000 students in preschool through 12th grade in the City of San Diego. It is the second largest school district in the state. SDUSD is a Local Educational Agency ("LEA") under the California Education Code. SDUSD is governed by elected officials who serve as members of its Board of Education.
- 3. The true names and capacities of Defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are presently unknown to Plaintiffs, who therefore sue these Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs will seek leave to amend this complaint and petition to include these Defendants' true names and capacities when they are ascertained. Each of the fictitiously named Defendants is responsible in some manner for the conduct alleged herein and for the damages suffered by Plaintiffs.

II. GENERAL ALLEGATIONS.

- A. Governor Newsom Declares State of Emergency to Address COVID-19.
- 4. On March 4, 2020, Defendant Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 5. SDUSD, along with the majority of school districts throughout California, ultimately closed its schools for the remainder of the school year to support public health efforts

to slow the spread of COVID-19.

- 6. In the fall of 2021, SDUSD reopened its schools for full-time, in-person instruction.
- 7. On September 28, 2021, the SDUSD Board voted to implement a Vaccine Mandate Plan ("Plan"), requiring all SDUSD students who are 16 years of age and older to receive their first COVID-19 vaccine dose by no later than November 29, 2021, and their second dose by no later than December 20, 2021. All unvaccinated students ages 16 and older will be involuntarily transferred to independent study on January 21, 2022 (the start of the spring semester).
- 8. Further, all other students will be required to receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine after full FDA approval of the vaccine for each age group. Students will have 35 days from the first dose deadline to receive their second dose.
- 9. According to the Plan, all students who are eligible for the vaccine and not vaccinated by established deadlines will be involuntarily enrolled in independent study.
- 10. SDUSD's vaccine mandate does not apply to students who are migrants, homeless, in foster care, or from military families. If they are a member of one of these groups, unvaccinated students may be "conditionally enrolled," even though they would otherwise be required to get vaccinated. Students who have a medical reason that they cannot receive the COVID-19 vaccine and students who have an individualized education plan ("IEP") are also exempt from SDUSD's mandate.
- 11. While students will have the opportunity to submit requests for a medical exemption, SDUSD contends state law does not recognize religious or personal belief exemptions for any student immunizations.
- 12. All SDUSD employees, partners, contractors, and adults who work directly with students and district employees on district property must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 on or before December 20, 2021. SDUSD has advised its staff that it will consider requests for religious exemptions from employees.
 - 13. All students ages 16 and above who choose not to receive a COVID-19 vaccine

will not be permitted to attend classes or participate in extracurricular activities, including sports, on any SDUSD campuses, unless they are a member of one of the aforementioned exempt groups.

- 14. The Plan sets no expiration date for the district's COVID-19 vaccination requirement. Thus, even if COVID-19 no longer poses a threat to individuals, and even if the State of California ultimately does not add COVID-19 to the statutory list of childhood illnesses for which a child must be immunized as a condition for admission to any school in California, SDUSD students will be indefinitely required to receive the vaccine.
 - B. Governor Gavin Newsom Announces a Future Vaccine Mandate for California Schoolchildren.
- 15. On August 12, 2021, the California Department of Public Health ("CDPH") issued an order requiring all teachers and school staff, including volunteers, to either provide proof of vaccination no later than October 15, 2021, or submit to diagnostic screening testing for COVID-19 at least once a week.
- 16. On October 1, 2021, California Governor Gavin Newsom announced that all California students will be required to provide proof that they have received the COVID-19 vaccine starting the term following full FDA approval of the vaccine for their age/grade span (i.e., 7–12 and K–6) in order to attend school in-person. However, Governor Newsom stopped short of announcing that all adults who work in schools will be required to provide proof of vaccination.
 - C. COVID-19 Vaccines Are Not Approved for Most Children.
- 17. There are currently no COVID-19 vaccines approved by the FDA for use in children under the age of 16.
- 18. On December 11, 2020, the Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") issued an Emergency Use Authorization ("EUA") for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for use in individuals ages 12 and up. This EUA was issued under Title 21 United States Code section 360bbb-3.
- 19. On December 18, 2020, the FDA issued an EUA for use of the ModernaCOVID-19 vaccine for individuals over the age of 18.

- 20. On February 27, 2021, the FDA issued an EUA for the use of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine for individuals over the age of 18.
- 21. According to the FDA, "[t]he issuance of an EUA is different than an FDA approval (licensure) of a vaccine." (https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-frequently-asked-questions#biologics.)

 An authorization for emergency use applies to a drug or biological product that is not otherwise approved, licensed, or cleared for commercial distribution or is approved or conditionally approved for another use. (21 U.S.C. § 21 360bbb-3(a)(2).)
- 22. Currently, there is only one FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine, and that vaccine is only approved for individuals ages 16 and older. On August 23, 2021, the FDA approved a Biologics License Application for BioNTech to manufacture a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine under the name of Comirnaty, for use in individuals ages 16 and older.
- 23. The FDA approval letter for Comirnaty states: "We are deferring submission of your pediatric studies for ages younger than 16 years because this product is ready for approval for use in individuals 16 years of age and older, and the pediatric studies for younger ages have not yet been completed."
- 24. FDA documents indicate that children under 16 may benefit from lower doses of Comirnaty. Dosing, efficacy, and safety of the vaccine for children under 16 remain subject to ongoing study and review.
- 25. An August 30, 2021, preprint by Hoeg et al. concluded: "For boys 12–15 without medical comorbidities receiving their second mRNA vaccination dose, the rate of CAE [stratified cardiac adverse event] is 3.7 to 6.1 times higher than their 120-day COVID-19 hospitalization risk as of August 21, 2021 (7-day hospitalizations 1.5/100k population) and 2.6–4.3-fold higher at times of high weekly hospitalization risk (7-day hospitalizations 2.1/100k), such as during January 2021."
- 26. According to a September 13, 2021, FDA review memorandum entitled Benefit-Risk Assessment of the Pfizer Vaccine for Age 16-17 years, the Pfizer vaccine provides a 6-month protection period and is predicted to prevent 142 COVID-19 hospitalizations but could

cause 196 myocarditis/pericarditis hospitalizations for males 16 to 17 years old; for males ages 12 to 15, the vaccine may prevent 122 COVID-19 hospitalizations but could cause 179 myocarditis/pericarditis hospitalizations. The memorandum further states: "We note that COVID-19 incidence highly influences the predicted benefits of the vaccine. If the disease incidence is higher, the benefits of the vaccine will be greater, and vice versa. Therefore, the benefit-risk conclusion may change if the COVID-19 incidence rate becomes very low in the future."

- 27. On September 3, 2021, the United Kingdom's Department of Health & Social Care issued an independent report declining to recommend COVID-19 vaccinations for children ages 12 to 15 without underlying health conditions, agreeing on a "precautionary approach ... given the very low risk of serious disease in those aged 12 to 15 years without an underlying health condition that puts them at increased risk." The report continued: "Given this very low risk, considerations on the potential harms and benefits of vaccination are very finely balanced." For example, the clinical picture for myocarditis, according to the report, "is atypical and the medium to long-term (months to years) prognosis, including the possibility of persistence of tissue damage resulting from inflammation, is currently uncertain as sufficient follow-up time has not yet occurred." The report concluded: "The margin of benefit [from the vaccine], based primarily on a health perspective, is considered too small to support advice on a universal programme of vaccination of otherwise healthy 12 to 15-year-old children at this time."
- 28. After considering the potential benefits and harms of COVID-19 vaccination for children, the United Kingdom's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation ("JVCI") found, while it is a "very rare adverse event," there "is increasingly robust evidence of an association between vaccination with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines and myocarditis." JVCI found: "For persons aged <18 years old who do not have underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19, there is more uncertainty in the precision of the harmbenefit balance when considering the impacts on children and young people themselves."
- JVCI is currently recommending that 16- and 17-year-old children be "offered"
 but not required to receive a first dose of the Pfizer vaccine. Notably, however, the

committee only recommends the vaccine for children 12 to 15 who have specific underlying conditions that put them at risk of severe COVID-19.

- D. The California Legislature and Department of Public Health Fully Occupy the Field of School Immunization Requirements.
- 30. SDUSD lacks authority to mandate childhood vaccines that are not already required by California law as a condition for attending school.
- 31. CDPH, in consultation with the California Department of Education, must adopt and enforce all regulations necessary to carry out Health and Safety Code, division 105, part 2, chapter 1, commencing with section 120325 but excluding section 120380. (Health & Safety Code, § 120330.) Those regulations appear in the California Code of Regulations ("CCR"), title 17, division 1, chapter 4, beginning with section 6000.
- 32. CCR section 6000, subdivision (a), defines "[a]dmission" as "a pupil's first attendance in a school ... facility or re-entry after withdrawing from a previous enrollment," while subdivision (a)(1) defines "[u]nconditional admission" as "admission based upon documented receipt of all required immunizations for the pupil's age or grade, *in accordance with section 6025*, except for those immunizations" permanently exempted for medical reasons in accordance with section 6051 or "exempted for personal beliefs in accordance with Health and Safety Code section 120335." (Italics added.)
- 33. Childhood immunization requirements are within the sole province of the California Legislature and CDPH, whose authority is limited by statute.
- 34. Health and Safety Code section 120325 provides, in relevant part, as follows: "In enacting this chapter ... it is the intent of the Legislature to provide: (a) a means for the eventual achievement of total immunization of appropriate age groups against the following childhood diseases" Thus, SDUSD's mandate conflicts with state law, which does not permit local school boards to promulgate new vaccination requirements in addition to those already required by state law.
- 35. Health and Safety Code section 120335 provides a list of ten specifically enumerated childhood illnesses from which a child must be immunized as a condition for

admission to any school in California, unless the child has a medical exemption. Those illnesses are identified in subdivision (b), as follows: (1) Diphtheria; (2) Hepatitis B; (3) Haemophilus influenzae type b; (4) Measles; (5) Mumps; (6) Pertussis (whooping cough); (7) Poliomyelitis; (8) Rubella; (9) Tetanus; and (10) Varicella (chickenpox). (Health & Safety Code, § 120335(b).) Notably, this list does *not* include immunization from COVID-19.

- 36. A report by the Assembly Committee on Health states: "Each of the 10 diseases was added to California code through legislative action, after careful consideration of the public health risks of these diseases, cost to the state and health system, communicability, and rates of transmission.... All of the diseases for which California requires school vaccinations are very serious conditions that pose very real health risks to children." (*Love v. State Dept. of Education* (2018) 29 Cal.App.5th 980, 987, citing Assem. Com. on Health, Analysis of Sen. Bill No. 277 (2015–2016 Reg. Sess.), as amended May 7, 2015, p. 4.)
- 37. While paragraph 11, subdivision (b) of Section 120335 provides for a possible expansion of the statutorily enumerated vaccination requirements through the addition of "any other disease deemed appropriate" by CDPH, it does not authorize individual school districts, including SDUSD, to add other vaccination requirements.
- 38. Furthermore, California law expressly limits CDPH's authority to mandate additional vaccinations for schoolchildren unless they are provided the opportunity to opt out of the requirement, as follows: "[A]ny immunizations deemed appropriate by the department pursuant to paragraph (11) of subdivision (a) of Section 120325 or paragraph (11) of subdivision (b) of Section 120335, may be mandated before a pupil's first admission to any private or public elementary or secondary school [...] *only if exemptions are allowed for both medical reasons and personal beliefs*." (Health & Safety Code, § 120338, italics added.)
- 39. The Legislature occupies the field that SDUSD's vaccination mandate attempts to invade. (*County of Los Angeles v. State Dep't of Public Health* (1958) 158 Cal. App.2d 425, 437.) "Where the Legislature has adopted statutes governing a particular subject matter, its intent with regard to occupying the field to the exclusion of all local regulation is not to be measured alone by the language used but by the whole purpose and scope of the legislative

scheme." (O'Connell v. City of Stockton (2007) 41 Cal.4th 1061, 1068.) "Whenever the Legislature has seen fit to adopt a general scheme for the regulation of a particular subject, the entire control over whatever phases of the subject are covered by state legislation ceases as far as local legislation is concerned." (Ibid.) It follows that "local regulation is invalid if it attempts to impose additional requirements in a field which is fully occupied by statute." (Tolman v. Underhill (1952) 39 Cal.2d 708, 712.)

40. California law supports existing statewide immunization requirements for schoolchildren; however, a vaccine mandate by an individual public school district is unprecedented where (a) the vaccine is not on the state's immunization list; (b) many of students are already immune from the virus; (c) the virus does not generally cause serious conditions even for those children who are not immune; (d) the vaccine has a very short track record; and (d) the vaccine poses very real health risks to children.

E. COVID-19 Poses a Very Low Risk to Schoolchildren.

- 41. COVID-19 cases in the SDUSD community have declined sharply since children and teachers returned to in-person instruction in September 2021 without any vaccine mandate in place. As of the date of this filing, the test positivity rate for students in the district is 0.04%.
- 42. In addition, significant natural and vaccine-induced immunity has already built up to protect the community.
- 43. According to data from CDPH, as of July 2021, more than 3,748,365
 Californians (9.49% of the state's population) have tested positive for COVID-19 since March 2020. The CDC estimates that only 1 of every 4.2 infections is reported, however, suggesting that more than 15.7 million Californians have previously been infected with COVID-19.1
- 44. In 2020, a total of 32,026 Californians (0.08% of the population) died with a COVID-19 diagnosis.² For perspective, in 2017, an estimated 62,797 Californians died from

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/burden.html.

² https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid19/index.htm.

the virility and severity of the disease locally.

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46. On January 15, 2021, before vaccinations were widely available, an average of 22,265 Californians were hospitalized with COVID-19 over a 14-day period, and 1.7 Californians per 100,000 died with COVID-19 over a seven-day period.

The rate of daily or weekly hospitalizations and deaths in a community speak to

- 47. As of September 20, 2021, 69.1% of Californians over the age of 12 have been fully vaccinated, and an additional 8.3% of Californians have received at least one dose of a two-dose vaccine.
- 48. On September 2, 2021, the CDC reported that by May of 2021, prior to the current surge of infections, around 83% of the United States population over age 16 have some degree of protection against COVID-19 due to vaccination or prior infection.³
- 49. According to CDPH, 85.9% of Californians have antibodies for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, as of June 12, 2021, when CDPH stopped tracking this data. Logically, this number would only increase over time as additional people are vaccinated or infected with the virus naturally. People who have antibodies were either infected with COVID-19 at some point in the past or may have received a COVID-19 vaccine and are fully or partially immune to COVID-19, meaning they are highly unlikely to be hospitalized or die from a COVID-19 infection. While antibodies wane over time, T-cells, which trigger a robust antibody response to prevent morbidity from infection, remain. T-cell responses are largely unaffected by variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. While circulating memory T-cells may not prevent SARS-CoV-2 infection entirely, they reduce the likelihood and limit the severity of a subsequent

Jones et al., *Estimated US Infection- and Vaccine-Induced SARS-CoV-2 Seroprevalence Based on Blood Donations, July 2020–May 2021* (published online Sept. 2, 2021) JAMA, at https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2784013.

⁴ CDPH, *COVID-19 Seroprevalence Data* (July 9, 2021), at https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Sero-prevalence-COVID-19-Data.aspx.

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50. Data now shows that natural immunity from prior infection with COVID-19 is at least as durable and likely longer-lasting than vaccine-induced immunity.

- 51. A large study from Israel published on August 25, 2021, found that natural immunity following an infection offered considerably more protection than two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, with the vaccinated-only population having a 13-fold increased risk of infection over the population with natural immunity.⁶
- 52. Another large study of over 150,000 patients in Florida and Ohio, published on March 15, 2021, also found that prior infection with COVID-19 was highly protective against reinfection and symptomatic disease.⁷
- 53. A study of 52,238 employees in the Cleveland Clinic Health System found that previously infected employees were highly protected from reinfection: "Not one of the 1359 previously infected subjects who remained unvaccinated had a SARS-CoV-2 infection over the duration of the study."8
- 54. A large majority of San Diego County residents have immunity to COVID-19 due to prior vaccination or infection, or both. As of October 5, 2021, 72.9% of San Diego County residents are fully vaccinated and 79.7% of residents have had at least one dose of the

⁵ Tarke et al., Negligible impact of SARS-CoV-2 variants on CD4+ and CD8+ T cell reactivity in COVID-19 exposed donors and vaccinees (Mar. 1, 2021), at https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.02.27.433180v1.full.pdf.

⁶ Gazit et al., Comparing SARS-CoV-2 natural immunity to vaccine-induced immunity: reinfections versus breakthrough infections (Aug. 25, 2021), at https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.08.24.21262415v1.full.pdf.

⁷ Sheehan et al., Reinfection Rates among Patients who Previously Tested Positive for COVID-19: a Retrospective Cohort Study (Mar. 15, 2021) Clinical Infectious Diseases, available at https://academic.oup.com/cid/advance-articlepdf/doi/10.1093/cid/ciab234/37532380/ciab234.pdf.

⁸ Shrestha et al., Necessity of COVID-19 vaccination in previously infected individuals (June 19, 2021), available at https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.06.01.21258176v3.full.pdf.

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vaccine. 64.4% of San Diego County residents ages 12 to 17 are fully vaccinated, and 72.3% have had at least one dose. Additionally, as of October 9, 2021, an estimated 626,926 San Diego County residents have survived a COVID-19 infection. This widespread immunity throughout the population helps to reduce the spread of COVID-19 throughout the state and helps to protect children and vulnerable populations from infection.

55. Indeed, as of October 10, 2021, the 7-day average for COVID-19 hospitalizations throughout the county had decreased 30% over a 14-day period to 284 people hospitalized with COVID-19. As of October 10, 2021, there have been a total of 17 deaths from COVID-19 over a 14-day period in San Diego County. Despite the surge in infections during July and August of 2021, the number of hospitalizations throughout the state has not reached critical levels, and the average number of reported deaths is still only half of that of the surge in July of 2020, when daily cases peaked at only 10,000 per day. As of the date of this filing, CDPH data shows case rates, test positivity rates, hospitalizations, and deaths dropping sharply despite the continued reopening of schools and the California economy.

F. Children Have a Low Risk of Mortality and Morbidity From COVID-19.

- 56. According to the CDC, children with COVID-19 typically have mild symptoms or no symptoms at all.
- 57. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Children's Hospital Foundation, for reporting states, the hospitalization rate for children with COVID-19 as of September 2, 2021, is 0.9%, basically the same rate it has been since June 3, 2021, when the rate was 0.8%. ¹⁰ The 0.8% figure had persisted since January 7, 2021, when the rate was 0.9%. The high was 3.8%, from May 21, 2020. 11 The mortality rate as of September 2, 2021, was 0.01% nationally, a figure that has remained the same since October 29, 2020, when it was

¹⁰ American Academy of Pediatrics and Children's Hospital Assn., "Children and Covid-19:

State Data Report," 9/2/21 version, at 18-19, Table 2B.

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/ 2019-nCoV/status.html.

¹¹ *Id.* at 20, Table 2B.

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-of-the-State-Public-

Health-Officer-Vaccine-Verification-for-Workers-in-Schools.aspx.

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G. Children Are Not the Primary Source of COVID-19 Spread.

- 63. The CDC reports: "The evidence to date suggests that staff-to-student and student-to-student transmission are not the primary means of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 among infected children. Several studies have also concluded that students are not the primary sources of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 among adults in school setting."²²
- 64. A study of Norwegian children that tested all contacts of children who had tested positive for COVID-19 concluded that "transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from children under 14 years of age was minimal in primary schools in Oslo and Viken, the two counties with the highest COVID-19 incidence."²³
- 65. Additionally, a report in the New England Journal of Medicine summarizing data from Sweden in Spring of 2020 when schools for children ages 16 and under remained open without requiring masks and COVID-19 vaccines were not yet available only saw 15 children hospitalized in the ICU out of 1,951,905 children (0.77 per 100,000) with zero deaths, and only 30 teachers were hospitalized in the ICU (19 per 100,000), a rate similar to other occupations.²⁴
- 66. The COVID-19 School Dashboard developed by Brown University tracks over 5,000 schools, 4 million students, and 1.3 million staff, and has consistently found student and staff infection rates of 0.1% to 0.2% since it began publishing in September 2020.

²² National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Division of Viral Diseases, *Science Brief: Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs – Updated* (updated July 9, 2021), at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-

briefs/transmission_k_12_schools.html.

²³ Brandal et al., *Minimal transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from paediatric COVID-19 cases in primary schools, Norway, August to November 2020* (Jan. 7, 2021) Euro Surveillance, available at https://doi.org/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.26.1.2002011.

²⁴ Ludvigsson et al., *Open Schools, Covid-19, and Child and Teacher Morbidity in Sweden* (Feb. 18, 2021) vol. 384, No. 7, N. Engl. J. Med. 669, available at https://www.noim.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEIMe20266702crticleTeals—true

 $[\]underline{https://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMc2026670?articleTools=\underline{true}.}$

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67. The CDC acknowledges that vaccinated individuals are still capable of becoming infected and transmitting COVID-19 to others.²⁵

H. SDUSD's Mandate Will Not Achieve Its Intended Goal

- 68. SDUSD states that vaccination is "the most *preventive* of all strategies," because "unlike masking, ventilation, and testing, vaccination protects students before the virus is introduced into the setting, reducing disease and new mutations." This statement is factually incorrect, as both masking and ventilation strategies are intended to prevent exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus altogether, while vaccination expects that the virus will first infect the body but prepare the immune system to fight off the infection.
- 69. The CDC acknowledges that vaccinated individuals are still capable of becoming infected and transmitting COVID-19 to others, and that evidence suggests "the viral load of vaccinated and unvaccinated persons infected with SARS-CoV-2 is also similar."²⁶
- 70. The latest report in the New England Journal of Medicine indicates that the effectiveness of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (the only vaccine available to children 12 and older) against infection declines to approximately 20% after 5 months, and the authors conclude "that a large proportion of the vaccinated population could lose its protection against infection in the coming months, perhaps increasing the potential for new epidemic waves."²⁷
 - 71. Therefore, any decision to mandate vaccination is unlikely to reduce the number

²⁵ Brown et al., Outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 Infections, Including COVID-19 Vaccine Breakthrough Infections, Associated with Large Public Gatherings — Barnstable County, Massachusetts, July 2021 (Aug. 6, 2021), vol. 70, No. 31, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) 1059, available at https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/pdfs/mm7031e2-H.pdf.

²⁶ Brown et al., Outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 Infections, Including COVID-19 Vaccine Breakthrough Infections, Associated with Large Public Gatherings — Barnstable County, Massachusetts, July 2021 (Aug. 6, 2021), vol. 70, No. 31, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) 1059, available at

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/pdfs/mm7031e2-H.pdf.

²⁷ Chemaitelly et al., Waning of BNT162b2 Vaccine Protection against SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Qatar (October 6, 2021). DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2114114.

- 78. Title 17, section 6025 of the California Code of Regulations, the implementing regulation for Health and Safety Code section 120335, provides that a school "shall unconditionally admit or allow continued attendance to any pupil ages 18 months or older whose parent or guardian has provided documentation of any of the following for each immunization required for the pupil's age or grade, as defined in Table A or B of this section."
- 79. Table A of section 6025 identifies the Immunization Requirements for Pre-Kindergarten, including doses required for specific age groups. Table B identifies California Immunization Requirements for Grades K–12, including doses required for specific age groups. Neither of these tables requires immunization against COVID-19.
- 80. Under title 17, section 6025 of the California Code of Regulations, a permanent medical exemption in accordance with section 6051, or a personal beliefs exemption in accordance with Health and Safety Code section 120335, may be provided in lieu of proof of receipt of immunization.
- 81. SDUSD is required by California law to unconditionally admit or allow continued attendance to any student who has provided proof of immunization, as provided by Tables A and B, or has submitted a medical exemption or personal beliefs exemption.
- 82. Defendants' COVID-19 vaccine mandate violates section 6025 because it requires school administrators and staff to exclude a child age 16 or older from entering any school property within SDUSD, attending in-person classes, and participating in extracurricular activities, including sports, at any SDUSD school without first providing proof that the child has been vaccinated for COVID-19, in accordance with the vaccination schedule determined by the Board, even though the child has all the immunizations required by section 6025.
- 83. Defendants' COVID-19 vaccine mandate violates section 120335 of the Health and Safety Code and title 17, section 6025 of the California Code of Regulations because it recognizes only vaccination for COVID-19, and not "immunization," which can be acquired naturally through prior infection.
 - 84. California schoolchildren have a fundamental right to a free public education.

- 85. Hundreds of children 16 and over who have not yet received two shots of the COVID-19 vaccine are currently enrolled as students at schools operated by SDUSD.
- 86. Hundreds of children over the age of 16 who have not yet received two shots of the COVID-19 vaccine are also currently enrolled in school-sponsored extracurricular activities that require them to participate in in-person meetings and activities with other students and teachers at their school.
- 87. More than 1,600 parents called in to SDUSD's board meeting to oppose its proposed vaccination mandate; in stark contrast, less than 100 parents registered comments in favor. Unfortunately, SDUSD severely limited the number of parents who were permitted to comment, and improperly permitted an equal number of speakers in support as in opposition to ultimately speak at its board meeting.
- 88. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021, deadline and who do not receive a second dose by SDUSD's December 20, 2021, deadline will be excluded from in-person instruction and participation in extracurricular activities on SDUSD's campuses.
- 89. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021, deadline and who do not receive a second dose by SDUSD's December 20, 2021, deadline will be involuntarily enrolled in an independent study program and will not be permitted to enter school property for any purpose.
- 90. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021, deadline and who do not receive a second dose by SDUSD's December 20, 2021, deadline will suffer irreparable harm each day that they are excluded from SDUSD's school campuses, whether for in-person instruction, extracurricular activities, or other educational or social purposes.
 - 91. Plaintiff has no administrative remedy and has no adequate remedy at law.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION Violation of California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 11700 Against All Defendants

92. Plaintiff hereby incorporates each of the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set

- 93. SDUSD's Board Policy Manual states, in relevant portion, as follows: "The Board of Education encourages the enrollment and appropriate placement of all school-aged children in school. The Superintendent or designee shall inform parents/guardians of children entering a district school at any grade level about admission requirements and shall assist them with enrollment procedures. Before enrolling any child in a district school, the Superintendent or designee shall verify the child's age, residency, immunization, and other applicable eligibility criteria specified in law, the accompanying administrative regulation, or other applicable Board policy or administrative regulation. New to district and returning pupils will be initially enrolled in accordance with CA Ed Code birthdate requirements and the district's Board Policies and Administrative Regulations." (San Diego Unified School District Students, Admission, BP 5111.)
- 94. SDUSD's Board Policies include a policy specifying the immunizations that a child must receive prior to admission in its schools, as follows: "The Superintendent or designee shall not unconditionally admit any student to a district elementary or secondary school, preschool, or child care and development program for the first time nor, after July 1, 2016, admit or advance any student to grade 7 unless the student has been fully immunized. The student shall present documentation of full immunization, in accordance with the age/grade and dose required by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), against the following diseases: (Health and Safety Code 120335; 17 CCR 6020) 1. Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR); 2. Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough) (DTP, DTaP, or Tdap); 3. Poliomyelitis (polio); 4. Hepatitis B; 5. Varicella (chickenpox); 6. Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib meningitis); 7. Any other disease designated by the CDPH." (San Diego Unified School District Students, IMMUNIZATIONS, Required Immunizations, AR 514.31(a).)
- 95. SDUSD is required by California law to unconditionally admit or allow continued attendance to any student who has provided proof of immunization, as provided by Title 17, Section 6025, Tables A and B, or has submitted a medical exemption or personal beliefs exemption (subject to expiration per code).

- 96. SDUSD's COVID-19 vaccine mandate contemplates involuntary, automatic enrollment in the district's independent study program for children ages 13 and over who do not provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination by SDUSD's January 21, 2022, deadline.
- 97. Under title 5, section 11700 of the California Code of Regulations, "Independent study is an optional educational alternative in which no pupil may be required to participate." (Cal. Code. Regs., tit. 5, § 11700, subd. (d).)
- 98. Additionally, title 5, section 11700 of the California Code of Regulations provides that "a pupil's ... choice to commence, or to continue in, independent study must not be coerced." (Cal. Code. Regs., tit. 5, § 11700, subs. (d)(2)(A).)
- 99. Moreover, "instruction may be provided to the pupil through independent study only if the pupil has the continuing option of classroom instruction." (Cal. Code. Regs., tit. 5, § 11700, subd. (d)(2)(B).)
- 100. SDUSD's COVID-19 vaccine mandate violates California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 11700, because it will lead to the forced and involuntarily enrollment of any child age 16 or over in the district's independent study program, and will require the exclusion of the child from any school property within SDUSD, in-person classes, and extracurricular activities, including sports, at any SDUSD school, unless the child provides proof that they have been vaccinated for COVID-19, in accordance with the vaccination schedule determined by the Board.
 - 101. California schoolchildren have a fundamental right to a free public education.
- 102. Hundreds of children over the age of 16 who have not yet received two shots of the COVID-19 vaccine are currently enrolled as students at schools operated by SDUSD.
- 103. Hundreds of children over the age of 16 who have not yet received two shots of the COVID-19 vaccine are also currently enrolled in school-sponsored extracurricular activities that require them to participate in in-person meetings and activities with other students and teachers at their school.
- 104. More than 1,600 parents called in to SDUSD's board meeting to oppose its proposed vaccination mandate; in stark contrast, less than 100 parents registered comments in

favor. Unfortunately, SDUSD severely limited the number of parents who were permitted to comment, and improperly permitted an equal number of speakers in support as in opposition to ultimately speak at its board meeting.

- 105. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021, deadline and who do not receive a second dose by SDUSD's December 20, 2021, deadline will be excluded from in-person instruction and participation in extracurricular activities on SDUSD's campuses.
- 106. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021, deadline and who do not receive a second dose by SDUSD's December 20, 2021, deadline will be involuntarily enrolled in an independent study program, and will not be permitted to enter school property for any purpose.
- 107. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021, deadline and who do not receive a second dose by SDUSD's December 20, 2021, deadline will suffer irreparable harm each day that they are excluded from SDUSD's school campuses, whether for in-person instruction, extracurricular activities, or other educational or social purposes.
 - 108. Plaintiff has no administrative remedy and has no adequate remedy at law.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION Violation of Education Code sections 51746 and 51747 Against All Defendants

- 109. Plaintiff hereby incorporates each of the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 110. The Education Code provides that "independent study is an optional educational alternative in which no pupil may be required to participate." (Ed. Code, § 51747, subd. (f)(8).) A school may enroll a child in such a program only if there has been a "pupil-parent-educator conference" to determine whether enrollment in independent study is in the best interest of the child (*id.*, § 51747, subd. (h)(2)) and "a signed written agreement for independent study from the pupil, or the pupil's parent or legal guardian if the pupil is less than 18 years of age" (*id.*, § 51747, subd. (f)(9)(F)).

- 111. Additionally, a child enrolled in a remote learning or independent study program cannot be excluded from school facilities. Rather, the school "shall ensure the same access to all existing services and resources in the school in which the pupil is enrolled ... as is available to all other pupils in the school." (Ed. Code, § 51746.)
- 112. A child enrolled in an independent study program always retains the option to return to his or her regular classroom for in-person instruction. The school is required to "transition pupils whose families wish to return to in-person instruction from independent study expeditiously, and, in no case, later than five instructional days." (Ed. Code, § 51747, subd. (f).)
- 113. SDUSD's COVID-19 vaccine mandate unlawfully requires school administrators and staff to involuntarily enroll any child age 16 or over in the district's independent study program, and to exclude the child from any school property within SDUSD, in-person classes, and extracurricular activities, including sports, at any SDUSD school unless they provide proof that the child has been vaccinated for COVID-19, in accordance with the vaccination schedule determined by the Board.
 - 114. California schoolchildren have a fundamental right to a free public education.
- 115. Hundreds of children over the age of 16 who have not yet received two shots of the COVID-19 vaccine are currently enrolled as students at schools operated by SDUSD.
- 116. Hundreds of children over the age of 16 who have not yet received two shots of the COVID-19 vaccine are also currently enrolled in school-sponsored extracurricular activities that require them to participate in in-person meetings and activities with other students and teachers at their school.
- 117. More than 1,600 parents called in to SDUSD's board meeting to oppose its proposed vaccination mandate; in stark contrast, less than 100 parents registered comments in favor. Unfortunately, SDUSD severely limited the number of parents who were permitted to comment, and improperly permitted an equal number of speakers in support as in opposition to ultimately speak at its board meeting.
- 118. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021, deadline and who do not receive a second dose by

SDUSD's December 20, 2021, deadline will be excluded from in-person instruction and participation in extracurricular activities on SDUSD's campuses.

- 119. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021, deadline and who do not receive a second dose by SDUSD's December 20, 2021 deadline will be involuntarily enrolled in an independent study program, and will not be permitted to enter school property for any purpose.
- 120. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021, deadline and who do not receive a second dose by SDUSD's December 20, 2021 deadline will suffer irreparable harm each day that they are excluded from SDUSD's school campuses, whether for in-person instruction, extracurricular activities, or other educational or social purposes.
 - 121. Plaintiff has no administrative remedy and has no adequate remedy at law.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION Violation of the Right to Privacy Against All Defendants

- 122. Plaintiff hereby incorporates each of the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 123. All people are by nature free and independent and have inalienable rights.

 Among these are the rights of enjoying and defending life and liberty; acquiring, possessing, and protecting property; and pursuing and obtaining safety, happiness, and privacy.
- The ballot pamphlet, which was distributed to the voters prior to the election, stated that the constitutional right to privacy encompassed a variety of rights involving private choice in personal affairs. "The right to privacy is the right to be left alone. It is a fundamental and compelling interest. It protects our homes, our families, our thoughts, our emotions, our expressions, our personalities, our freedom of communion, and our freedom to associate with the people we choose [para.] The right of privacy is an important American heritage and essential to the fundamental rights guaranteed by the First, Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Ninth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. This right should be abridged only when there is

compelling public need." (Ballot Pamp., Proposed Amends. to Cal. Const. with arguments to voters, Gen. Elec. (Nov. 7, 1972) p. 27, as quoted in *Robbins v. Superior Court* (1985) 38 Cal.3d 199, 212.)

- 125. The right to refuse medical treatment is a constitutionally guaranteed right which must not be abridged. (*Bartling v. Superior Court* (1984) 163 Cal.App. 3d 186, 195.) This right is specifically guaranteed by the California Constitution (art. I, § 1) and has been found to exist in the "penumbra" of rights guaranteed by the Fifth and Ninth Amendments to the United States Constitution. (*Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965) 381 U.S. 479, 484.) "In short, the law recognizes the individual interest in preserving 'the inviolability of his person." (*Superintendent of Belchertown State School v. Saikewicz* (Mass. 1977) 370 N.E.2d 417, 424.) The constitutional right of privacy guarantees to the individual the freedom to choose to reject, or refuse to consent to, intrusions of his bodily integrity. (*Id.* at 427.)
- 126. "When receipt of a public benefit is conditioned upon the waiver of a constitutional right, the government bears a heavy burden of demonstrating the practical necessity for the limitation." (*Robbins v. Superior Court* (1985) 38 Cal.3d 199, 213.)
- 127. Though certain other vaccines have previously been required to attend school, and courts have found those infringements on the right to privacy justified by public health necessity, there is no such justification for SDUSD's COVID-19 vaccine mandate. Children's risks of severe disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 are extremely low and falling. Children have not been found to be a significant vector for spreading COVID-19 in schools. COVID-19 vaccines for children thus provide very little benefit to the school population. Weighing against this scant benefit, COVID-19 vaccines have been found to cause negative side effects in children, including myocarditis and pericarditis, at higher rates than adults. COVID-19 vaccines are relatively new, and the full extent of side effects in children is not yet fully known. One otherwise healthy 15-year-old boy in Sonoma County died on June 7, 2021, two days after receiving his second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. The cause of death was determined to be "STRESS CARDIOMYOPATHY WITH PERIVASCULAR CORONARY ARTERY INFLAMMATION," believed to be a result of the COVID-19 vaccine. By

comparison, Sonoma County has recorded zero pediatric deaths from COVID-19. The infringement on the privacy of California schoolchildren thus is not warranted.

- 128. California schoolchildren have a fundamental right to a free public education.
- 129. Hundreds of children over the age of 16 who have not yet received two shots of the COVID-19 vaccine are currently enrolled as students at schools operated by SDUSD.
- 130. Hundreds of children over the age of 16 who have not yet received two shots of the COVID-19 vaccine are also currently enrolled in school-sponsored extracurricular activities that require them to participate in in-person meetings and activities with other students and teachers at their school.
- 131. More than 1,600 parents called in to SDUSD's board meeting to oppose its proposed vaccination mandate; in stark contrast, less than 100 parents registered comments in favor. Unfortunately, SDUSD severely limited the number of parents who were permitted to comment, and improperly permitted an equal number of speakers in support as in opposition to ultimately speak at its board meeting.
- 132. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021, deadline and who do not receive a second dose by SDUSD's December 20, 2021, deadline will be excluded from in-person instruction and participation in extracurricular activities on SDUSD's campuses.
- 133. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021, deadline and who do not receive a second dose by SDUSD's December 20, 2021, deadline will be involuntarily enrolled in an independent study program, and will not be permitted to enter school property for any purpose.
- 134. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021, deadline and who do not receive a second dose by SDUSD's December 20, 2021, deadline will suffer irreparable harm each day that they are excluded from SDUSD's school campuses, whether for in-person instruction, extracurricular activities, or other educational or social purposes.
 - 135. Plaintiff has no administrative remedy and has no adequate remedy at law.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION Violation of Article IX of the California Constitution Against All Defendants

- 136. Plaintiff hereby incorporates each of the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 137. Article IX, section 1, of the California Constitution provides: "A general diffusion of knowledge and intelligence being essential to the preservation of the rights and liberties of the people, the Legislature shall encourage by all suitable means the promotion of intellectual, scientific, moral, and agricultural improvement."
- 138. Article IX, section 5 of the California Constitution provides: "The Legislature shall provide for a system of common schools by which a free school shall be kept up and supported in each district at least six months in every year"
- 139. By implementing a stringent and discriminatory COVID-19 vaccine mandate, Defendants are denying California schoolchildren their fundamental right to an education that provides a "general diffusion of knowledge and intelligence essential to the preservation of the rights and liberties of the people" and ensures the opportunity to become proficient according to the state of California's standards, to develop the skills and capacities necessary to achieve economic and social success in our competitive society, and to participate meaningfully in political and community life.
- 140. By preventing unvaccinated students from entering SDUSD's school campuses for in-person instruction and extracurricular activities, Defendants have interfered, to the detriment of California schoolchildren and their families, with the state's "system of common schools by which a free school shall be kept up and supported in each district at least six months in every year"
- 141. The alleged government interest in slowing the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 does not justify this infringement on California's students' constitutional right to a quality education.
- 142. Defendants' decisions and other actions recited herein are significantly broader than necessary to serve the alleged government interest in slowing the spread of the virus that

causes COVID-19.

- 143. Defendants' decisions and other actions recited herein are not narrowly tailored to minimize infringements on students' educational rights.
- 144. California students and their families are suffering irreparable harm each day that their schools are required to implement Defendants' unreasonable and overly broad mandates.
 - 145. Plaintiff has no administrative remedy and has no adequate remedy at law.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION Violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the California Constitution Against All Defendants

- 146. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate each of the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 147. Under the Equal Protection Clause of the California Constitution, "[a] person may not be ... denied equal protection of the laws." (Cal. Const., art. I, § 7, subd. (a).) Further, "[a] citizen or class of citizens may not be granted privileges or immunities not granted on the same terms to all citizens." (Cal. Const., Art. I, § 7, subd. (b).)
- 148. Equal protection of the laws ensures that people who are similarly situated for purposes of a law are generally treated similarly by the law. This means that a government actor may not adopt a rule that affects two or more similarly situated groups in an unequal manner.
- 149. "The first prerequisite to a meritorious claim under the equal protection clause is a showing that the state has adopted a classification that affects two or more similarly situated groups in an unequal manner. This initial inquiry is not whether persons are similarly situated for all purposes, but whether they are similarly situated for purposes of the law challenged." (*Cooley v. Superior Court* (2002) 29 Cal.4th 228, 253, citations omitted; see also *DiMartile v. Cuomo* (N.D.N.Y. 2020, No. 1:20-CV-0859 (GTS/CFH)), 2020 WL 4558711, at *10 [holding pandemic restrictions violated equal protection guarantees]; *Deese v. City of Lodi* (1937) 21 Cal.App.2d 631, 635 [holding health restrictions applicable only to certain industries violated equal protection guarantees].)
- 150. The government's exercise of police power "cannot be so used as to arbitrarily limit the rights of one class of people, and allow those same rights and privileges to a different

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class, where the public welfare does not demand or justify such a classification." (*Deese*, *supra*, 21 Cal.App.2d at 640.))

- 151. Defendants' restrictions violate the Equal Protection Clause of the California Constitution because (1) Defendants' COVID-19 vaccination mandate applies only to SDUSD, whereas there is no such statewide mandate; (2) Defendants' regulations distinguish between vaccinated and unvaccinated children, and impose independent study as the sole option for education for children over the age of 16 who are unvaccinated, including children who have natural immunity from prior infection, while providing in-person education and opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities to those who are vaccinated; (3) Defendants' rules wholly ignore the efficacy of naturally acquired immunity, while only recognizing vaccinated immunity and sanctioning preferential treatment for vaccinated individuals; (4) Defendants' rules enable its employees to request a religious exemption from the mandate, while denying students an opportunity to make the same request; and (5) Defendants' rules treat unvaccinated migrant, foster, homeless, and military family members' children more favorably than all other unvaccinated children by permitting unvaccinated migrant, foster, homeless, and military family members' children to attend school in-person and to participate in extracurricular activities on Defendants' school campuses, even if they are unvaccinated.
- 152. Where a rule results in infringement of a fundamental right, such rule is subject to strict scrutiny. Education is a fundamental right under the California Constitution. Thus, any rule that deprives a person or group of equal access to education is subject to strict scrutiny.
- 153. Strict scrutiny demands that the government actor establish (1) it has a compelling interest that justifies the challenged rule; (2) the rule is necessary to further that interest; and (3) the rule is narrowly drawn to achieve that end.
- 154. The alleged government interest in slowing the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 does not justify Defendants' rules.
- 155. Defendants' rules are significantly broader than necessary to further the alleged government interest in slowing the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.
 - 156. Defendants' rules are not narrowly drawn to minimize infringements on the

fundamental rights of California's schoolchildren.

- 157. Experience and science have demonstrated that schools do not drive community transmission of the virus and that schools can reopen safely with basic precautions that are much less harmful to students than the overbroad vaccine mandate Defendants have imposed.
- 158. The distinction made by Defendants between vaccinated and unvaccinated children and even different classes of unvaccinated children (i.e., migrant, foster, homeless, and military family members' children) cannot survive strict scrutiny. In the alternative, these distinctions cannot survive even rational basis scrutiny. Individuals who have been vaccinated for COVID-19 can and do still get infected with the COVID-19 virus. Naturally acquired immunity has been found to be equal or superior to vaccine-induced immunity. Defendants' preferential treatment of vaccinated individuals and certain classes of unvaccinated individuals discriminates, without justification, against all other unvaccinated individuals, including those with natural immunity who have recovered from COVID-19. It also creates three classes of children: those who have been vaccinated for COVID-19, those who have not been vaccinated for COVID-19 but fall within a certain class of children subject to preferential treatment, and those children who do not fall within one of those classes but have not been vaccinated.
- 159. Defendants' COVID-19 vaccine mandate treats children who have not been vaccinated and are not members of an exempt group as an inferior class, in that those children cannot attend the school of their choice within SDUSD, cannot participate in in-person classes, and cannot enter a school property for any purpose, including extracurricular and other activities, while the children who have been vaccinated or are a member of an exempt group are allowed to attend the school of their choice within SDUSD, to participate in in-person classes, and to enter a school property for extracurricular and other activities.
- 160. Defendants' COVID-19 vaccine mandate and their proposed exclusion and imposition of restrictions on unvaccinated students cannot withstand strict scrutiny. In the alternative, it cannot survive even rational basis scrutiny. A COVID-19 vaccine mandate for children is nonsensical and unjustified where most teachers and school staff have been

vaccinated, and studies have revealed that children are unlikely to spread COVID-19 to adults and others. All teachers and staff have now had the opportunity to receive both doses of the vaccine. Defendants' COVID-19 vaccine mandate does not guarantee or even suggest that all students who are vaccinated will be free of COVID-19 when they are physically present at school such that the safety of other students, teachers and staff, and their families will be ensured or even nominally aided. Indeed, isolating and excluding unvaccinated students is nothing more than theatrics, designed to make students, teachers, staff, and their families "feel safe."

- 161. California schoolchildren have a fundamental right to a free public education.
- 162. Hundreds of children over the age of 16 who have not yet received two shots of the COVID-19 vaccine are currently enrolled as students at schools operated by SDUSD.
- 163. Hundreds of children over the age of 16 who have not yet received two shots of the COVID-19 vaccine are also currently enrolled in school-sponsored extracurricular activities that require them to participate in in-person meetings and activities with other students and teachers at their school.
- 164. More than 1,600 parents called in to SDUSD's board meeting to oppose its proposed vaccination mandate; in stark contrast, less than 100 parents registered comments in favor. Unfortunately, SDUSD severely limited the number of parents who were permitted to comment, and improperly permitted an equal number of speakers in support as in opposition to ultimately speak at its board meeting.
- 165. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021, deadline and who do not receive a second dose by SDUSD's December 20, 2021, deadline will be excluded from in-person instruction and participation in extracurricular activities on SDUSD's campuses.
- 166. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021, deadline and who do not receive a second dose by SDUSD's December 20, 2021, deadline will be involuntarily enrolled in an independent study program and will not be permitted to enter school property for any purpose.

167. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021, deadline and who do not receive a second dose by SDUSD's December 20, 2021, deadline will suffer irreparable harm each day that they are excluded from SDUSD's school campuses, whether for in-person instruction, extracurricular activities, or other educational or social purposes.

168. Plaintiff has no administrative remedy and has no adequate remedy at law.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION Violation of Education Code section 220 Against All Defendants

- 169. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate each of the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 170. Under California Education Code section 220, "No person shall be subjected to discrimination on the basis of disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code, including immigration status, in any program or activity conducted by an educational institution that receives, or benefits from, state financial assistance, or enrolls pupils who receive state student financial aid." (Ed. Code, § 220.)
- 171. SDUSD and its schools are educational institutions that receive state financial assistance.
- 172. Defendants' COVID-19 vaccine mandate discriminates against all unvaccinated schoolchildren including those who are immune due to prior infection that are not members of one of the classes of children that SDUSD has specified as exempt from the requirement, including migrant children, who will be permitted to receive the benefits of inperson education, regardless of their COVID-19 vaccination status, based solely on their nationality and/or immigration status, while other unvaccinated children who are not migrants will be involuntarily transferred to independent study.
- 173. Defendants' COVID-19 vaccine mandate does not treat all children equally, as it gives preference to and permits unvaccinated migrant children to continue to attend in-person

classes and extracurricular activities at its schools, while barring all other unvaccinated schoolchildren, including children who have recovered from COVID-19, from in-person classes and extracurricular activities at SDUSD schools.

- 174. California schoolchildren have a fundamental right to a free public education.
- 175. Hundreds of children over the age of 16 who have not yet received two shots of the COVID-19 vaccine are currently enrolled as students at schools operated by SDUSD.
- 176. Hundreds of children over the age of 16 who have not yet received two shots of the COVID-19 vaccine are also currently enrolled in school-sponsored extracurricular activities that require them to participate in in-person meetings and activities with other students and teachers at their school.
- 177. More than 1,600 parents called in to SDUSD's board meeting to oppose its proposed vaccination mandate; in stark contrast, less than 100 parents registered comments in favor. Unfortunately, SDUSD severely limited the number of parents who were permitted to comment, and improperly permitted an equal number of speakers in support as in opposition to ultimately speak at its board meeting.
- 178. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021, deadline and who do not receive a second dose by SDUSD's December 20, 2021, deadline will be excluded from in-person instruction and participation in extracurricular activities on SDUSD's campuses.
- 179. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021, deadline and who do not receive a second dose by SDUSD's December 20, 2021, deadline will be involuntarily enrolled in an independent study program and will not be permitted to enter school property for any purpose.
- 180. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021 deadline and who do not receive a second dose by SDUSD's December 20, 2021 deadline will suffer irreparable harm each day that they are excluded from SDUSD's school campuses, whether for in-person instruction, extracurricular activities, or other educational or social purposes.

181. Plaintiff has no administrative remedy and has no adequate remedy at law.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION Violation of Government Code section 11135 Against All Defendants

- 182. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate each of the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 183. Under Government Code section 11135, "No person in the State of California shall, on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, mental disability, physical disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, or sexual orientation, be unlawfully denied full and equal access to the benefits of, or be unlawfully subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity that is conducted, operated, or administered by the state or by any state agency, is funded directly by the state, or receives any financial assistance from the state." (Cal. Gov. Code, § 11135.)
 - 184. SDUSD and its schools receive state financial assistance.
- 185. Defendants' COVID-19 vaccine mandate discriminates against all unvaccinated schoolchildren including those who are immune due to prior infection that are not members of one of the classes of children that SDUSD has specified as exempt from the requirement, including migrant children, who will be permitted to receive the benefits of inperson education, regardless of their COVID-19 vaccination status, based solely on their ancestry, national origin, or ethnic group identification, while other unvaccinated children who are not migrants will be involuntarily transferred to independent study.
- 186. Defendants' COVID-19 vaccine mandate does not treat all children equally, as it gives preference to and permits unvaccinated migrant children to continue to attend in-person classes and extracurricular activities at its schools, while barring all other unvaccinated schoolchildren, including children who have recovered from COVID-19, from in-person classes and extracurricular activities at SDUSD schools.
 - 187. California schoolchildren have a fundamental right to a free public education.
- 188. Hundreds of children over the age of 16 who have not yet received two shots of the COVID-19 vaccine are currently enrolled as students at schools operated by SDUSD.

- 189. Hundreds of children over the age of 16 who have not yet received two shots of the COVID-19 vaccine are also currently enrolled in school-sponsored extracurricular activities that require them to participate in in-person meetings and activities with other students and teachers at their school.
- 190. More than 1,600 parents called in to SDUSD's board meeting to oppose its proposed vaccination mandate; in stark contrast, less than 100 parents registered comments in favor. Unfortunately, SDUSD severely limited the number of parents who were permitted to comment, and improperly permitted an equal number of speakers in support as in opposition to ultimately speak at its board meeting.
- 191. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021, deadline and who do not receive a second dose by SDUSD's December 20, 2021, deadline will be excluded from in-person instruction and participation in extracurricular activities on SDUSD's campuses.
- 192. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021, deadline and who do not receive a second dose by SDUSD's December 20, 2021, deadline will be involuntarily enrolled in an independent study program and will not be permitted to enter school property for any purpose.
- 193. Children over the age of 16 who do not receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by SDUSD's November 29, 2021, deadline and who do not receive a second dose by SDUSD's December 20, 2021, deadline will suffer irreparable harm each day that they are excluded from SDUSD's school campuses, whether for in-person instruction, extracurricular activities, or other educational or social purposes.
 - 194. Plaintiff has no administrative remedy and has no adequate remedy at law. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as follows:
 - 1. A temporary restraining order, preliminary and permanent injunction, and writ of mandate restraining and preventing Defendants and their officers, agents, or any other persons acting with them or on their behalf from implementing and enforcing a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for all students ages 16 and up;
 - 2. A temporary restraining order, preliminary and permanent injunction, and writ of mandate restraining and preventing Defendants and their officers, agents, or any

1 2		have not received two dose within 35 days of their 16t	hem or on their behalf from excluding children who es of a COVID-19 vaccine by December 21, 2021, or h birthday, from reasonably enjoying the benefits of
3		afforded to vaccinated chil	ction, extracurricular activities, and all other benefits dren in their schools, and ordering Defendants to conditionally for in-person school attendance and
4		participation in extracurric	
5	3.	A declaration that Defendants lack authority to issue a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for students;	
6 7	4.	A declaration that SDUSD's COVID-19 vaccine mandate is invalid and unlawful;	
8	5.		ants cannot require schools to exclude a student 19 from in-person learning;
9 10	6.	A declaration that Defendatindependent study program	ants cannot involuntarily enroll any student in an
11	7.	Attorneys' fees pursuant to any other applicable provis	o section 1021.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure and
12	8.	Costs of suit; and	sion of law,
13	9.		ef as the court may deem just and proper.
14			January 1, 1
15	Dated: October 11, 2021		AANNESTAD ANDELIN & CORN LLP
16			Com De Romina
17 18			Lee M. Andelin
19			Arie L. Spangler
20			Attorneys for Plaintiffs
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