

Madame chair and distinguished members of the committee,

I am Dr. Jesse Lopez. I am a board certified surgeon with 30+ years of clinical experience. I am a proponent of SB6. This is because governmental mandates during the Covid pandemic were not only ineffective, but were actually harmful. This has been shown through real scientific data that this is the case.

1. Covid lockdowns did not stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus. A study published in Scientific Reports in December of 2022 showed that closure of restaurants and bars did not decrease the symptoms of Covid-19. As we experienced here in our country, many business never re-opened their doors

due to the economic devastation of mandated closures of various establishments.

2. Lockdowns did not have a significant effect on mortality reduction rates. This was confirmed in a study by John Hopkins Institute for Applied Economics, January 2022. Even the CDCs own published data addressed the overall low mortality rate associated with Covid-19. The death rate would have been even lower had early treatment been broadly embraced.

3. Social isolation, school closures, and social distancing were all failed policies that led to increased depression, suicide, and anxiety which was the most prevalent among the youth. There was a clinically

significant increased rate of 25% of depression and anxiety symptoms among children, with depression being higher in older children. This was shown in a study in JAMA Pediatrics, August 9, 2021. I will share with the committee how I believe these policies contributed to my own son taking his life in July 2022.

4. Policies separating children from older adults and other family members, including grandparents, had no sound scientific basis. A recent study in Medical Sciences in March 2022 actually showed no reduction in the rates of Covid-19 infection when children were kept away from older adults, and that those individuals who were not exposed to younger children had a 49% increased risk

of hospitalization for Covid-19 and a 76% increased risk of ICU admission

Thank you for your support of SB6 so that these dreadful, isolationary and ineffective mandates will never again be allowed to be put in place to propagate the economic and emotional devastation that we have seen over the past two years.