

Dear Legislative Commission members,

My name is Camila and I have been attending the University of Nevada, Reno for almost three years. I am writing to express my opinion regarding the proposed permanent regulation regarding the student mandate to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

The university has always mandated vaccines in order to attend and/or live on campus and to vote against continuing to mandate relevant and important vaccinations during a pandemic would be irresponsible. The Covid-19 vaccines have been proven to lessen the severity and spread of the Coronavirus and have significantly improved the state of this ongoing crisis.

College students live in close quarters, often with many roommates, and are not strangers to socializing with many other people on a consistent basis. Covid-19 transmission rates have always been high among young adults and that has not changed within the past year and a half of this pandemic. I personally made the decision to continue my education with UNR with the vaccine mandate being a strong factor in my decision. Last year my education was significantly impacted by the transition to online learning and this year I have loved having classes in person again and my grades have improved. However, when I come to class and people cough throughout the lecture, I feel unsafe. When people go to sporting events without masks, I feel unsafe. And when I hear my peers who are studying to go into health fields brag about how they are unvaccinated, I feel unsafe. Knowing that most, if not all, of my classmates next semester would be vaccinated has made me feel safer about trying to get an education in the midst of a public health crisis.

As members of the Nevada State Board of Health it is your responsibility to make decisions that protect the health of the State and its educational institutions. The vaccinations I had to get when applying to this university were mandated to protect me and my future classmates. The Covid-19 vaccination will do the same. This decision you all must make is NOT partisan, it is science. This decision is for the 5.3 million people who have died from Covid-19, eight thousand of which are from Nevada. Not to mention the millions of survivors who will now face lifelong effects as a result of this virus.

As a resident of Washoe County and a student of the University of Nevada, Reno, I am strongly urging you to pass this proposed permanent regulation for the sole reason to protect the health of Nevadans like the Legislative Commission was created to do.

Thank you,

Camila Cardillo Moreno