



March 22nd, 2022

To: California Legislators and Committee Members

Re: AB 2098: Physicians and surgeons: unprofessional conduct- **OPPOSE**

On behalf of Protection of the Educational Rights of Kids, in the interest of the health and safety of all Californians, and in alignment of the U.S. Constitution, we oppose AB 2098.

This bill is [The Semmelweis reflex](#), it is a metaphor for reflex-like tendency to reject new evidence or new knowledge because it contradicts established norms, beliefs, or paradigms. The Semmelweis reflex is a human behavioral tendency to stick to preexisting beliefs and to reject fresh ideas that contradict them (despite adequate evidence) this was coined from a

Hungarian physician, who discovered in 1847 that handwashing between patients and surgery reduce infections and deaths. He was rejected and persecuted for this discovery.

- If we punish doctors for having a difference of opinion or dissenting from the norm, medicine does not progress and public health is not achieved. By attacking and censoring dissenting physicians and surgeons or anyone else, sets back scientific evolution and progress.
- Section 2234.1 of the Business and Professions Code respects and protects doctors who think outside the box.
- AB 2098 blatantly proposes a new law “abridging the freedom of speech” of doctors and violating the right of doctors to “petition the Government for a redress of grievances,” which violates the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
- This knee-jerk reaction bill to reject new evidence because it contradicts established beliefs is called “[The Semmelweis Reflex](#)”—which causes us to easily dismiss new, difficult ideas. It’s a form of [confirmation bias](#) where [denialism](#) leads us to ignore objective evidence, even if it could bring transformative improvement.

This bill will not help mitigate outbreaks, will persecute doctors that are innovators in medicine and curtail groundbreaking treatments. You must oppose AB 2098.

Sincerely,

Amy Bohn  
PERK President