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The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**August 1, 2025**

***RE: "Protecting Education Access and Religious Liberty for All"***

***Dear Governor Newsom,***

United with faith leaders, organizations, and families, we urgently request you sign an executive order and pass legislation to protect religious freedom in our state. There is and has been an active attempt to remove religious liberties across the nation. Parents have a fundamental right to raise their children according to their religious beliefs, and any government policy infringing on this right has alarmed the faith leaders of this great nation who must unify to protect religious liberty.

Children are being denied access to education and prohibited from enrolling in public and private schools because there is no religious exemption to vaccinations. Families' religious liberties are under assault. Education and religious liberties must be protected. Currently, there are states within the United States, California being one of them, that do not provide equal access to education for children for families with religious objections and conscientious beliefs. These practices are discriminatory, a poor investment in our nation's future, and are a violation of the fundamental liberties enshrined in the U.S. Constitution.

We cannot force families to choose between their faith and their children's education. As leaders we declare that a child's access to education cannot be conditioned on a family violating their deeply held religious convictions. Our mission at PERK is to advocate for medical freedom, bodily autonomy, civil rights, parental sovereignty, **and to protect children including their right to an education.**

There are 5 current states that completely deny religious exemptions and we have seen an increase recently by additional states to attempt to remove religious freedom and exemptions, including, Massachusetts and Hawaii. On July 28, 2025, the American Academy of Pediatrics came out with a policy statement recommendation to remove all religious exemptions across the country, further attacking religious freedom deliberately nationwide.

California has denied religious liberty for more than 10 years and it's time for it to be restored. Some school districts and universities continue to deny sincerely held religious beliefs and remove access to fundamental rights of an education from children and young adults by conditioning their education on it, and others may re-implement such mandates. Californian school enrollment has dropped by nearly 400,000 students since 2015, and the data is clear: removing personal belief, religious, and medical exemptions from school vaccination policies has directly contributed to this sharp decline.

Parents and young adults should be empowered, informed, and educated with accurate data regarding the remote risks of serious illness associated with all diseases for children and young adults, as well as how those risks can be mitigated through various measures, and left free to make their own decisions accordingly. Given the serious violation of religious liberty against families, children, and young adults, threatening to shut children out of an education is an intolerable infringement on personal freedom. Such mandates usurp parental authority and burden students and families of many faiths.

Religious liberty is the cornerstone of the Constitution of the United States. In preservation of religious liberty, parental rights, and halting the unconstitutional breach of religious freedom, educational access must be granted to all children. Failure to provide an allowance for religious exemptions is unconstitutional and interferes with children's right to an education.

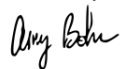
The first amendment was clearly the first and most important to the founding of this nation. The Supreme Court upheld a broader religious belief founded in deeply held moral convictions. The American people must retain their ability to make all their own medical decisions through education and informed consent, with equitable alternatives. The Supreme Court has held that "religious beliefs need not be acceptable, logical, consistent, or comprehensible to others in order to merit First Amendment protection."

We, the undersigned, express our support for an Executive Order and legislation that will restore religious liberty, personal belief exemptions, and protect education access and religious liberty for all children. We also support efforts to correct the harms caused by laws like California's SB 277, SB276 and SB714, which restricted medical exemptions and punished doctors for prioritizing patient care. For more than a decade, California has allowed the removal of religious and personal belief exemptions. This direct attack has denied children access to education, undermined parental rights, and forced families to choose between their faith and their child's future. Today, *children are actively being kicked out of schools*. This discriminatory policy violates the First Amendment and has no place in our state.

Laws like **SB277 and SB276** not only stripped away religious liberty, parental choice, and punished doctors, but they also forced families to choose between their faith and their child's access to education. These policies violate First Amendment protections, disregard medical freedom, and undermine trust in California's leadership and education system. Laws like SB 276 and SB 277 also *violate California's* own **Constitution** which states that every child is guaranteed a right to an education. Every child deserves the *unencumbered* right to learn, and no family should be excluded from school because of their deeply held beliefs.

We are calling on you to take the first step in support of our efforts to restore educational and religious freedom back to California. From here forward, we ask you to codify it in the state legislature that religious, philosophical, and conscientious reasons are allowed and constitutionally protected. We seek your urgent support to preserve religious liberty and protect educational access for all.

Sincerely,



Amy Bohn

**PERK President of Protection of the Educational Rights of Kids**