



April 11, 2022

Members of the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions
State Capitol,
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Oppose AB 2098 (Low): Physicians and surgeons: unprofessional conduct.

Dear Chair Berman and the Members of the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions:

On behalf of A Voice for Choice Advocacy (AVFCA), I regret to inform you that we oppose AB 2098. AVFCA advocates for people's rights to be fully informed about the composition, quality, and short- and long-term health effects of all products that go into people's bodies, such as food, water, air, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics, and have a choice as to whether to ingest, inject or use them.

While we agree that physicians and surgeons should be disciplined for maliciously sharing misinformation and disinformation, there are already measures in place for the California Medical Board to discipline for such offenses. Furthermore, AB 2098 is overly broad and would be impossible to implement because there is no definition and no established "standard of care" or "contemporary scientific consensus" for treating SARS-COV-2/COVID-19.

We are still in a time of evolution with this virus and its treatment, as we have been for the past 2+ years. SARS-COV-2 has mutated becoming more transmissible but less severe. While a handful of treatments have been authorized by the FDA, such as monoclonal antibodies and anti-viral medications, there are hundreds more in clinical trials, that will come to market in the next months and years.

In the meantime, if this bill passes, California risks losing even more doctors to other states because they do not want to be put in the position of possibly being disciplined because they were using the latest research, which had not become standard of care yet, or trying adjunct treatments for better outcomes, that may not have been discovered or written about yet, or using protocols from other countries or states. If it were not for doctors trying different approaches throughout the past two years, we would still be using ventilators ineffectively.

We ask you to oppose AB 2098, as it is unnecessary and will impact California's healthcare system negatively, and NOT to allow it to pass through the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Christina Hildebrand

Christina Hildebrand,
President,
A Voice for Choice Advocacy, Inc.
christina@avoiceforchoice.org

CC: Assembly Member Low, Bill Author
Robby Sumner, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Business and Professions