

**AB 2693 (REYES) COVID-19 EXPOSURE
OPPOSE**



June 1, 2022

TO: Members, Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee

**SUBJECT: AB 2693 (REYES) COVID-19 EXPOSURE
OPPOSE - AS INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 18, 2022
SCHEDULED FOR HEARING JUNE 8, 2022**

The California Chamber of Commerce and the listed organizations are **OPPOSED** to **AB 2693 (Reyes)** as introduced on February 18, 2022, because it extends COVID-19 notice requirements that are no longer appropriate as the state moves into the endemic phase of COVID-19 in 2023.

AB 685 (2020) initially created notice requirements for COVID-19 in the workplace and included a sunset of January 2023 for some of its provisions. Specifically, this prior legislation provided for two different types of notice within one business day of a COVID-19 case in the workplace: (1) notice for close contacts (and their elected representatives) of their exposure; and (2) notice for all workers on the “premises” that a case was present. AB 685 was amended in AB 654 (2021), which maintained the January 2023 sunset.

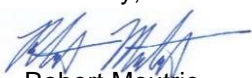
Despite Entering the Endemic Phase of COVID, AB 2693 Extends Emergency-Style Notice to 2025.

Thankfully, we are in a different world from the one where these notice requirements were put into place. The vast majority of people in California are vaccinated – and those who are not mostly remain that way by choice.¹ Test availability has improved considerably. Case rates are low – *despite the economy re-opening and in-person schooling recommencing*. By way of example: even at the *peak* of the Omicron spike in December 2021 (when the state was open and shoppers were mingling), California’s hospitalizations were still below the 2020 holiday spike.²

To be clear: we do not oppose notification of close contacts. However, workplace-wide notices no longer serve the purposes they did early in the pandemic. A COVID-19 case is no longer the same risk it once was due to increased vaccination and immunity in the population. Extending emergency-level notice until 2025 just doesn’t make sense.

For these reasons, we are **OPPOSED** to **AB 2693 (Reyes)**.

Sincerely,



Robert Moutrie
Policy Advocate
California Chamber of Commerce
on behalf of

Acclamation Management Services
Allied Managed Care
Associated General Contractors
California Apartment Association
California Association of Health Services at Home
California Association of Joint Powers Authorities
California Association of Winegrape Growers
California Bankers Association
California Building Industry Association
California Business Roundtable
California Cable & Telecommunications Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Credit Union League
California Farm Bureau
California Framing Contractors Association
California Grocers Association
California Hospital Association
California Landscape Contractors Association
California League of Food Producers
California Manufacturers & Technology Association
California Railroads
California Restaurant Association
California Retailers Association
California Special Districts Association
California State Association of Counties
California Trucking Association

Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce
Coalition of Small and Disabled Veteran Businesses
Construction Employers’ Association
El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce
El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce
Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce
Family Business Association of California
Flasher Barricade Association
Folsom Chamber of Commerce
Housing Contractors of California
League of California Cities
National Federation of Independent Business
Oceanside Chamber of Commerce
Official Police Garages of Los Angeles
Public Risk, Innovation, Solutions and Management
Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce
Residential Contractors Association
Roseville Area Chamber of Commerce
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
United Chamber Advocacy Network
Urban Counties of California
West Ventura County Business Alliance
Western Electrical Contractors Association
Western Growers Association
Western Steel Council
Wine Institute
Yuba Sutter Chamber of Commerce

¹ Obviously, there is a small subset of individuals who are unable to vaccinate due to health reasons – but they are not the majority of the unvaccinated population.

² Data on comparative hospital admissions from: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/california-covid-cases.html>.

cc: Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor
Shannon Flores, Office of Assemblymember Reyes
Consultant, Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee
Cory Botts, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus