



18 April 2019

California Legislature
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 276
Position: Oppose.

Honorable Members of the Legislature,

ParentalRights.org urges your prompt and total rejection of Senate Bill 276.

SB276 in any form constitutes a wholesale attack on the constitutionally protected rights of children, parents, and medical professionals throughout California.

The United States Supreme Court held in its landmark 1925 *Pierce v. Society of Sisters* decision that “[t]he child is not the mere creature of the State; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations.”

Setting up the State as the sole arbiter of a minor child’s health care, even on this one issue, claims the child as a creature of the State and violates the rights of the child.

In 1979, the Court clarified that parents, not agencies or officers of the state, have the right and duty to make medical decisions for their child because “natural bonds of affection lead parents to act in the best interest of their children.”

Today, proponents of SB 276 would replace this presumption, on which “[t]he law’s concept of the family rests,” with the false notion that this legislative body is in a better position than parents to choose what is best for an individual child.

Moreover, SB 276 takes the extreme position that unaccountable government entities are better equipped than the child’s own *duly-licensed physician*, in concert with the child’s parents, to know what is best for the child medically.

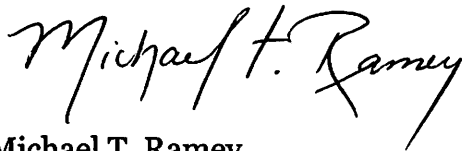
It is mind-boggling.

SB 276 asks this legislature to vote “no confidence” on the State’s licensure provision, and to display a blatant distrust in the expert opinion of medical professionals duly licensed by this State.

Consider the Pandora’s box of lawsuits, as any patient who suffers a medical error may sue the state for knowingly licensing a physician in whose medical judgment the same state now shows no confidence.

On behalf of the countless doctors, parents, and children whose rights would be violated by its passage, we urge you to vote “no” on this grasping proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael T. Ramey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

**Michael T. Ramey
Executive Director**