

DRAFT

**TO SUPPORT STATE LEGISLATION REPEALING CALIFORNIA'S
PERSONAL BELIEF EXEMPTION (PBE)**

WHEREAS under current California law, a parent may choose to opt their child out of some or all school vaccination requirements by filing a personal belief exemption (PBE) with their child's school, and

WHEREAS the rate of kindergarteners exercising a personal belief exemption from vaccinations in Marin County has almost doubled in ten years, and

WHEREAS when a contagion spreads in a community with immunization rates below 90 percent, the protection provided by 'community immunity' can be at risk. This means many people are at risk of becoming infected, including people who cannot be immunized (e.g. infants, chemotherapy patients and those with HIV or other conditions), and

WHEREAS highly contagious and life-threatening diseases, including the measles and pertussis, preventable by vaccinations have seen a resurgence in recent years, and

WHEREAS individuals may not realize that they are carrying a highly communicable disease and, therefore, spread the virus to others without knowing it, and

WHEREAS the United States experienced a record number of measles cases during 2014, with 644 cases from 27 states reported to the Center for Disease Control's National Center for Immunizations and Respiratory Disease (NCIRD), and

WHEREAS there were 99 confirmed cases of measles in California as of February 6, 2015, including 2 cases in Marin County, and

WHEREAS the CDC reports as many as one out of every 20 children with measles contracts pneumonia, the most common cause of death from measles in young children, and

WHEREAS approximately one child out of every 1,000 who get measles will develop encephalitis (swelling of the brain) that can lead to convulsions and can leave the child deaf or cognitively impaired and for every 1,000 children who get measles, one or two will die, and

WHEREAS the Federal Drug Administration, which monitors the safety of vaccinations, reports that vaccines are licensed, after stringent testing and study, because the benefits offered to the individual far outweigh the risk of serious health effects, and

WHEREAS the high number of unvaccinated students is jeopardizing public health, not only in our schools but in the broader community, and

WHEREAS the best way to prevent communicable diseases is to become vaccinated, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT;

The Board of Trustees of Marin County is in full support of legislation introduced by Senators Richard Pan, M.D. and Ben Allen, to ban the use of personal belief exemptions throughout the State of California. In so doing, California will join thirty-two other states who also ban the use of PBEs with regard to school immunizations.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Clerk of the Board hereby certifies that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Trustees, held on March 10, 2015 in San Rafael, California.

YES: _____
NO: _____
ABSENT: _____
ABSTAIN: _____

, Board Clerk