

RESOLUTION 2020-B

CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OF ALL BUT MEDICALLY REQUIRED EXEMPTIONS FROM STATE AND FEDERAL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING PUBLIC, PRIVATE, HOME OR PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

Whereas, the New Mexico Department of Health (“Department”) is the State agency responsible for the health of the citizens of New Mexico; and

Whereas, the Department preemptively regulates the requirements for immunizations of persons and residents within the State; and

Whereas, the Department reports that measles is still common in many parts of the world and that travelers may bring the disease with them when they travel to the United States; and

Whereas, the Department reports that measles is so contagious that it expects 9 out of 10 exposed persons who do not have measles immunity will contract the disease; and

Whereas, the United States is experiencing an outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus in pandemic proportions; and

Whereas, the COVID-19 coronavirus appears to spread easily, and millions of Americans have been infected, and hundreds of thousands have lost their lives to this pandemic; and

Whereas, expectations are high that a vaccine for the COVID-19 coronavirus will be effective against the disease, but this vaccine will protect the population only if a high rate of application is achieved; and

Whereas, the safety of unimmunized infants in New Mexico and of others who cannot be vaccinated depends on the rate of vaccination in our community; and

Whereas, several states which permit only medical exemptions from immunization requirements to attend schools, have experienced increases in childhood immunization rates; and

Whereas, vaccine preventable illness and hospitalization places an avoidable yet costly burden on our public health care system in case of a disease outbreak; and

Whereas, those most at risk for serious complications from vaccine preventable illness are those with the least medical resources available to them and, so immunization requirements present a social equity as well as a medical policy concern; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the New Mexico Municipal League supports removing all but medically required exemptions from the immunization requirement for children attending public, private, home, and parochial schools in New Mexico.

Passed, Approved and Adopted this 3rd day of September at the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico.