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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 2022

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Senator Gregg Schmedes Asks Governor to State Position on COVID Vaccine Mandate for Children

SANTA FE – Today, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advisory committee voted to add the COVID vaccine to the immunization schedule for children. In a follow-up statement to the Associated Press, the CDC went out of its way to remind parents that immunization mandates are a function of the state, not the federal government.

In response to the news, **Senator Gregg Schmedes** (District 19-Tijeras), a physician, penned a letter to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham imploring her to make public her position on a COVID vaccine mandate for schoolchildren.

“The CDC’s recommendation is particularly concerning for New Mexicans, and parents deserve to know where the Governor stands on this issue. During the pandemic, she weaponized CDC guidelines to create some of the most stringent policies in the nation, including now disproven school closures. At least [86% of children](#) have already been exposed to COVID. Parents should not have to worry that the government will force their children to get an unnecessary vaccine in order to go to school. I urge the Governor to make her position on this public immediately.”

The letter to the Governor is attached.

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New Mexico State Senate
State Capitol
Santa Fe

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October 20, 2022

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor of New Mexico
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham:

Today, it was announced that a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) panel voted to add the COVID vaccine to the immunization schedule for children. According to media reports, it is expected that the CDC will approve that recommendation.

Although the revised immunization schedule would not take effect until January 2023, New Mexico parents and citizens deserve to know your position on this crucial issue now. The CDC has made it clear that a COVID vaccine mandate for children will ultimately be decided at the state level by local officials.

As Governor, do you support mandating the COVID vaccine for schoolchildren?

A prompt and precise response to this question would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregg Schmedes".

GREGG SCHMEDES, M.D.
State Senator