

California State Senate

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January 13, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

As we enter the New Year, California remains under various COVID-related stay-at-home orders, the economy is falling apart, and the state's hospitals and their caregivers are being stressed as never before. Federally-approved vaccines offer the quickest path out of the increasingly heavy costs of the pandemic. The federal government announced "Operation Warp Speed" May 15, 2020. You have known since then that safe and effective vaccines would be a critically vital tool in stemming the pandemic and restoring life to some sort of normal. However, your Administration's vaccine distribution effort has failed to act rapidly. This is unacceptable.

According to the California Department of Public Health, 2,466,125 vaccine doses, which include both the first and required second dose, have been shipped to local health departments and health care systems in multiple counties as of January 10. However, only 783,476 vaccine doses have been administered thus far. While you have repeatedly acknowledged distribution must improve, we do not understand how the plan you have spent ten months preparing for this very moment can be performing so poorly. We are frustrated to say the least.

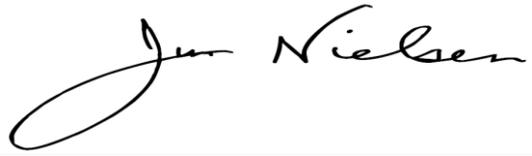
You have touted your plan to spend an additional \$300 million to fix the distribution plan's failures, and have mentioned the creation of a new technology project to implement a COVID vaccine management program. However, according to the Department of Technology website, this program has an estimated completion date of June 14, 2021. Are Californians expected to wait six more months for you to fix the vaccine distribution problems? Californians deserve and demand an immediate fix to your vaccine distribution plan, and as such, this needs to be your top priority.

We strongly encourage you to focus as intently as possible on the critical work necessary to immediately improve vaccine distribution. Californians deserve better. If this requires legislative action, we stand ready to work with you. Should you or your staff have any questions, please email senator.grove@senate.ca.gov or call (916) 651-4016.

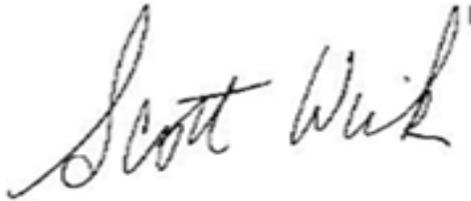
Sincerely,



Shannon Grove
Senate Republican Leader, 16th District



Jim Nielsen, 4th Senate District



Scott Wilk, 21st Senate District



Patricia Bates, 36th Senate District