

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0550

February 16, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor
State of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

Operation Warp Speed delivered a COVID-19 vaccine in record time. That is why it is essential that government prioritize availability to the most vulnerable populations first.

To date, only 1.2 million Californians have been fully vaccinated.¹ Most schools remain closed. Law enforcement and emergency services employees go to work each day unvaccinated and with no reliable way of knowing when they can receive their shot.

Despite this sluggish start to the State's rollout, your administration has indeed updated its vaccination plan with new eligibility for some workers: cannabis shop employees.² While this is good news for them, seniors with underlying health conditions, educators, law enforcement, those with disabilities, and workers of other industries are waiting in line.

To be clear, this is not a debate about pot shop workers. In due time, they can have access to the vaccine as well.

As a fundamental matter, our law enforcement officials put themselves in harm's way and come to the aid of the community whenever called, which has not subsided even during a pandemic. Our teachers are essential to getting our schools safely reopened as soon as possible. With student mental and physical health in decline, we cannot afford to further delay restarting in-person learning. These workers should be top priorities.

I urge you to immediately rescind these decisions. Thank you for your urgent attention to these concerns and action to correct these errors.

Sincerely,



DARRELL ISSA
Member of Congress

¹ Los Angeles Times Staff. (2021, February 15). *Tracking coronavirus vaccinations in California*. Retrieved February 16, 2021, from Los Angeles Times: <https://www.latimes.com/projects/california-coronavirus-cases-tracking-outbreak/covid-19-vaccines-distribution/>

² *Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Guidelines*. (2021, February 13). Retrieved from California Department of Health: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/VaccineAllocationGuidelines.aspx>