**Mr. Prodromos Prodromou**

**Honorable Minister of Education,**

**Culture, Sport and Youth**

**Nicosia**

**[Association Details]**

[Today’s Date]

**[BY HAND/BY POST]**

Dear Minister,

**Subject: Compulsory Rapid Test for COVID-19 for Gymnasium and**

**Lyceum Students**

We represent the above parents' association and would like to express our concern regarding the measures recently imposed by the Ministry of Education in relation to providing a clear rapid test for Covid-19 by all high school pupils each week.

We believe that the compulsory requirement for underage children to take diagnostical tests, is contradictory to the Article 7 of the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus providing for the right to life encompassing the physical integrity of the person and Article 20 which guarantees the right to education, as well as it opposes the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine and the Convention on the Rights of the child to which Cyprus is a signatory. The above-mentioned legislation allows the State a very narrow margin of appreciation in the imposition of limitation on the protected rights.

In order for the restrictions of the rights and freedoms protected by the Constitution to become legitimate, it is necessary for either a state of emergency to be implemented in Cyprus, or the restrictions in question to be approved by the Cypriot Parliament, which is not the case in the current circumstances.

According to the Article 5 of the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, an intervention in the health field may only be carried out after the person concerned has given free and informed consent to it after providing such a person with appropriate information as to the purpose and nature of the intervention as well as on its consequences and risks. With regard to minors who do not have the capacity to consent to an intervention, it may only be carried out with the authorisation of their representative or an authority or a person or body provided for by law. The child has the right to express their opinion as an increasingly determining factor in proportion to his or her age and degree of maturity.

In light of the above, the requirement to present a negative rapid test for attending school is considered to be unlawful and unconstitutional. Moreover, it is unnecessary for children who are in good health and have no symptoms to undergo the testing each week.

We would appreciate it if you could please consider giving instructions to the relevant department of your Ministry to prepare a regulation in order to stop this policy so that we avoid taking actions to pursue our children’s rights through legal channels.

Please inform us of your decision in writing at [association’s address/e-mail] by [designate the date]. Thank you for your prompt attention to our request.

Faithfully yours,

SGN………………………………

[Full Name of Authorised Representative]