

Good day,

I am writing to you today urging you to vote No on extending the Governor's executive orders. I am Mother to 4 children. Two years ago, I had a kindergartener, two 504 plans and an IEP. You can only imagine how difficult how challenging remote learning was at my house. Two weeks has stretched into two years and the Governor has asked for another extension of his powers. Absolutely not!

I now have a second grader who has never had a full normal year of school. He hates the masks and asks me daily if he can homeschool.

A 10-year-old with a 504 plan that has not been met while her grades are in freefall. A joyous child who loves cheerleading that missed out on an entire year of cheer due to the Governor's rule of cheer being a high-risk sport. Despite other states cheering without incident.

A 15-year-old with an IEP that has not been met and an alarming threat of suicidal ideation from him. We were very lucky to get him the help he needed via therapy. We also had a wonderful school district that allowed in person schooling for him while all others were out of the buildings. Many would argue that we were keeping children safe while keeping them out of school in the fall of 2020, I would argue that for my child it was safer for him to be in person in the building. Some children need in person schooling expressly for their mental health. My child was that child.

I also have a recent 2021 graduate who decided to not go on to higher education since the pandemic restrictions were too difficult to juggle along with the new experience of adjusting to college life. She was blessed to enter the work force full time and is doing well, but I often wonder what her path would look like without these restrictions at our colleges. She was also able to vote in her first election. The difficulties she faced during her high school career made her choices easy. Those in favor of freedom and willing to stand up for school children were the ones she wanted to vote for. I'm not sure if you realize that standing by certain pandemic restrictions, you have created a butterfly effect. Many recent graduates report the same thing. Their votes will be for those candidates touting the least restrictive measures. I fear you have alienated a huge base of young voters by these policy decisions. Pray they have short memories and believe your campaign promises.

I decided to get involved after hearing absolutely nothing from my elected officials and I ran for my town's BOE. I won a seat. I am now one of 9 that will help to bring the pandemic restrictions to a close. Very proud to help navigate these new waters. But with an extension of the Governor's executive orders, I will not get to do that. I ask you to restore the three branches of government. We need our government back.

Finally, I would like to present data on the harms of mask wearing that you may not have seen as it was just released yesterday. It is regarding facial perception in 6–14-year-olds and their processing of masked faces.

<https://cognitiveresearchjournal.springeropen.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s41235-022-00360-2.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3GwEb4i6OagtBVPI0g8iTr5KJNWF-rhlwiVLcRI1R5SVufML6GsmQ00Ug>

Thank you,
Alicia Makowski
Naugatuck