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39 Bart Drive
Canton, CT 06019

Office of Governor Ned Lamont
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: OPPOSE Continuation of Emergency Declarations and Limited Executive Orders

Dear Governor Lamont:

I write to express my OPPOSITION to the continuation of the Governor's Emergency Declarations and Limited Executive Orders. There is no longer an exigent need for the emergency declarations and executive orders put in place at the beginning of the pandemic. There certainly is no need to continue mandating that children who attend school do so masked. It has been demonstrated by countless scientific and scholarly experts that masks do not prevent the spread or transmission of the Covid-19 virus. Rather, they inhibit children's breathing, cause germs to pool at their face, and they have countless and untold ramifications on social and emotional learning that is critical for particularly younger children. We have three elementary school aged children, two of whom have speech and language difficulties. My children have shown no improvement in their articulation since the start of masking at school because being able to see how their pathologist forms letter sounds is critical to proper articulation. Gym, which most likely every adult looks back at elementary school with fond memories of, has become a least favorite special for all three kids since the start of the pandemic since they "hate" running with masks on, which is a requirement at their school. I have noticed a marked decline in my children's interest in school sports that require masks. I fear that developing a distaste for sports now will result in a continued distaste for sports long term.

I would like to quote to you a letter from our six-year old son who took it upon himself to write a letter about his feelings on masks:

Dear [Governor] Lamont:

Can we stop wearing masks? Love Bryce. I hate wearing masks because I can't breathe that well. I'm 6. Sometimes my teacher can't hear me because of the mask. Can you mail me back? I love you as a Governor.

Love Bryce

The physical and social/emotional harm being done to children significantly outweighs any perceived benefits to be gained from continued mask use. I respectfully urge you to please let parents have the choice regarding whether to send their children to school with masks. Those who prefer to continue attending school with masks can freely do so but every parent should have the freedom to make that choice.

Respectfully submitted,
Aubrey Blatchley

