

Dear Representatives:

For the past two years, we have asked children to wear masks for more than 2,000 hours while in school. We forced them into this because we thought this was safest for them. We wanted to protect them from this horrible virus that has taken the lives of so many fellow Americans. We did so without much data on mask efficiency and because it seemed like a small sacrifice of comfort for the greater good. We all said, “masking isn’t a huge deal if it will protect us.”

However, we have learned a lot over the past two years. Perhaps more than any two years preceding 2020. What we now know is that the scientific data concludes that distancing, classroom barriers and most notably student masking are found to “not have a statistically significant benefit” in reducing the spread of the virus in schools. (CDC, *Mask Use and Ventilation Improvements to Reduce COVID-10 Incidence in Elementary Schools*, May 28, 2021). In other words, mask use is not effective in the school setting. Student masking has NO statistical impact. There continues to be zero data to support that masking in schools has any effect on hospitalization or mortality rates in the community.

We also now know that requiring students to mask, use plastic barriers and “socially distance” has many drawbacks and is in fact a very big deal. These drawbacks are obvious to us now – increase in anxiety and decrease in social skills, diminished speech, isolation, interference with breathing, interference with the ability to read emotion and interact with peers. This needs to stop. Enough is enough.

As a parent of two elementary aged students, both of whom have had Covid this year despite wearing masks in school for over 2,000 hours, despite being fully vaccinated, despite living in a household that takes the virus seriously and that also happens to vote Democratically, I am writing in full support of ending mask usage in schools. This is not a political issue. This is common sense and scientifically sound. I urge you to vote to end the Governor’s Emergency Powers on February 9, 2022 and allow our children to return to normalcy immediately.

Brielle C. Goldfaden  
Greenwich resident