

February 7, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Hello, I hope this testimony finds you well and in good health. My name is Brittany Grant, I am a mother of two, educator, and wife to a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran. I have lived in Connecticut my entire life and my husband has deep familial ties to this state dating back over a hundred years. I write to you today in opposition to the continuation of Emergency Declarations and Limited Executive Orders as well as the codification of any mandates. Governor Lamont has now spent roughly half of his time in office with executive powers that surpass the votes of the house of representatives and senators and has imposed mandates that have negatively impacted the citizens and the children of the state of Connecticut. It is time to return to a representative government and give the power of choice back to the people of Connecticut.

I have not seen a state of emergency in Connecticut in some time now. The constant extension of said emergency declarations and executive orders has been unwarranted time and again, as this is the 7th time the governor has requested a continuation of these powers with no evidence or cause. It is time we end this tyranny. We have spent two years under the mandates and nothing seems to change in the way of positivity rates. I have, however, seen many negative impacts including in our schools, healthcare facilities, the economy, and the personal lives of many who have had their choice removed in order to earn a living for themselves or their families.

As an educator and member of the CEA, I am in disagreement with their stance on continued mask mandates in schools. Despite the mandates being in place since the start of the 2020-2021 school year, transmission has gone up, down, and through schools. It is not preventing the spread of Covid-19 as we once thought it would. The CDC has made a statement advising against cloth masks as a precaution as well. Parental choice should be honored here and the mandates should be stopped. I have seen the mask mandates impact student mental health and academic growth over the last two school years and have struggled to close learning gaps because of the continued masking. This mandate is hurting our children.

The freedom to choose has been eliminated from us as citizens of Connecticut. We are no longer able to make personal medical choices, but rather, are subject to discriminatory, and unwarranted mandates in order to maintain our jobs or to even receive life saving medical interventions. This is unethical and inhumane.

I urge you, please vote no to the continuation of Emergency Declarations and Limited Executive orders as well as the codification of any mandates. Let the state of Connecticut return to a representative government like so many other states have done. There is no emergency, there is no need for the executive powers, mandates, or continued tyranny in Connecticut.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Brittany M. Grant