

Members of the Legislature,

As a father of four children under 10 years old, I have seen firsthand the damage done by continuing to treat our children as vectors of disease. Children are not resilient; they are sponges that absorb everything they are told. If they believe they are harmful to others and need to keep their faces hidden at all times, the long-term effects will be devastating.

Back when we knew little about this virus, we were told that masking DID NOT WORK to prevent the user from contracting a respiratory virus. However, as the “science changed” we were told that this virus was not airborne and was spread by droplets, which led to the belief that masks would help stop you from spreading to others. Eventually, we learned that the virus was in fact airborne and spread primarily via aerosol transmission. For some reason, we failed to use this “science changed” moment to look at the decades of data showing cloth masks would not work, instead we doubled down...

As a coach of multiple youth sports teams in addition to being a parent of four, it was painful to see these children waste their precious youth with sweaty, dirty masks on their faces, unable to show emotion or recognize facial cues. I had the opportunity to speak with my son's new basketball coach, who after watching on the sidelines for 18 months could not believe how difficult it was to communicate with a mask on and noted how difficult it must be for teachers to effectively teach children like this...BINGO!

In my own household I've seen my children develop nervous facial tics, rashes, and refuse to go to school because they did not want to wear masks. Teachers constantly make examples of kids (2nd graders) and shame them in front of the entire class for not properly wearing a cloth mask. It's shameful that these teachers, caregivers we are entrusting with our children's education and development, have absolutely no respect for the lives they are impairing. Children should not be treated as vectors of disease.

We can look around the world, and most importantly our own country to see that masking has had no effect, and that CT is one of a handful of states remaining that enforce such a draconian law. Teachers have many tools to protect themselves at this stage, including wearing of a properly fitted N95 or N100 respirator and vaccination, as well as having nearly two years to work on improving their physical and metabolic health.

If parents chose to keep their kids in masks, that is their prerogative. Parents need a choice, and more importantly a voice in what is happening to our children.

Regards,

Christopher Sadick