

Good Morning Connecticut State Assembly Members,

Thank you for reading my written testimony in lieu of me attending the public forum which was not possible for me due to my job.

My name is Christina Corvello. I have been a teacher in the state of CT for the last 18 years. I love my job! I love my district and I love teaching!

My love of teaching has not waned over the last two years of the pandemic though the obstacles in front of me have continued to get higher and higher.

I taught in person at school through the entire September 2020- June 2021 school year and I have taught in person through the September 2021 to the present school year.

You would think that these vaccine-mandated obstacles put in place by Ned Lamont would weigh me down and make me be less passionate and less enthusiastic about teaching but in a strange way it has been quite the opposite. These obstacles have made me into a stronger, more dynamic, more understanding and more educated person in all aspects of my life.

Like everyone else who has been intimately affected by the pandemic, as I have been, I have reached my ultimate lows and risen up everytime stronger and more determined than I was before. So has the pandemic affected me, yes! But as an unvaccinated teacher, it has not made me weaker, it has made me stronger, so watch out!:) )

In August 2021, I was horrified when Ned Lamont announced the teacher vaccine mandate. As an unvaccinated teacher, my world was turned upside down by this announcement. However, I did not sit in the corner and cry as you might expect, I took action. I contacted all of my

representatives repeatedly. I contacted my school system for answers repeatedly. I contacted the union for support. I contacted my insurance company for answers. and I did not stop there. I became an advocate for other unvaccinated school personnel as well!

When the vaccine mandate was approved by the extension of Ned Lamont's executive powers in September 2021, I began a new crusade which I want you to listen to very carefully because it highlights, what I believe to be one of the largest biggest problems we have in the state of CT right now: A complete and total lack of communication... let me say it again...a complete and total lack of communication from Governor Lamont and the government agencies, who are implementing the vaccine mandate in CT.

Let me explain what I mean by a complete and total lack of communication.

This data is given with 100% truthfulness and 100% honesty on my part.

To from September 27, 2021 to today,

I have typed, printed and sent 15 letters by US mail to Governor Ned Lamont and I have received 0 responses.

I have types, printed, and sent 15 letters by US mail to The Department of Public Health and I have received 3 responses.

I have typed, printed, and sent 12 letters by US mail to the Department of Labor and I have received 0 responses.

I have typed, printed, and sent 6 letters to the CT State Department of Education and I have received 0 responses.

I have typed, printed, and sent 5 letters to the Connecticut Education Association and have received 2 responses.

I repeat...a total and complete lack of communication from the governor and the government agencies that are deciding each and every move in the vaccine mandates.

I am a law abiding citizen, who has lived in the state of CT for the past 20 years. I am also an honest person who has taught in person through the entire pandemic.

I have been subjected to the increasingly horrific obstacles of completing weekly testing for the more than 20 weeks of the school year so I can keep my job and be a contributing member of society, yet Ned Lamont and state agencies, specifically the CSDE and the DPH, do not feel the need to ever respond to my questions, concerns, or comments. Why is this?

And finally, I would like to reiterate that this vaccine mandate has not changed me in any way, except to make me stronger emotionally, physically, and educationally. So if the intention of the vaccine mandate was to break people down, weaken people, make their lives harder and harder so that they will eventually get vaccinated, that is not happening and never will.

My own will to protect my body compounded by the increasingly frequent scientific new stories coming out every day as we speak about the how the vaccine is utterly useless to people who have been vaccinated because they are getting covid as often as unvaccinated individuals, with the exact same symptoms and same exact duration of symptoms, along with the power of natural immunity, as stated by the CDC, makes this an easy decision.

I am also a person who believes that communication, which is seriously lacking right now, is one of the most important aspects of a democracy so listening to tax paying citizens, as my representative Dr. Petit, and Senator Martin always do, is one of the most important parts of creating a functional government that represents the needs of the citizens of this state.

The representatives and senators that are here today, who listen directly to and respond directly to the CT citizens that contact them are the master communicators who will change CT to make it a better place starting today. We need to make CT a better place by placing our trust in those that care about our needs and respond to our needs, our representatives and senators! We need to live in a democracy in CT, not a dictatorship, as we are right now.

A special thank you shout out to Dr. Petit and Senator Martin from me!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

-Christina Corvello