

**Written Testimony for CT Legislature Informal Public Hearings February 9, 2022**

I understand the Governor's Emergency Orders expire on February 15, 2022. The Governor has asked legislative leaders to extend his emergency powers and pass legislation to codify some of his previous executive orders. The Governor has asked for codification of EO 9-1, which allows the Connecticut State Department of Education to require masks in schools, and EO 13, which enables DPH to impose mask mandates at their discretion.

Further I understand the legislature plans to hold an informational public hearing via Zoom on Feb 8<sup>th</sup>.

I do **not** support the extension of emergency powers beyond February 9.

I do **not** support mask mandates in schools - the science does not support this continued action. And I do not support granting the DOE and/or DPH the authority to do this. Science and experience has proven that schools and kids are safe and the kids need to see faces, expressions etc. Many states have dropped mask mandates recently (e.g., New Jersey and Virginia). CT needs to take the next step to normal.

We need to go back to our "normal way" of governing with no dictatorial authority granted to non-elected bodies. Originally there was a hospital crisis but that is simply not the case today and has not been the case for some time.

Thank you for listening, Do the right thing!!

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