

I am submitting this statement in OPPOSITION to extending any and all mandates forcing masking, testing and vaccines. Forcing Americans to adhere to any of these practices is illegal, immoral and unconstitutional. My name is Denise Koeppel, I am a mother and a special education teacher in Waterbury for 14 years. I am going to tell you the direct detrimental impacts that these orders have had on different aspects of my life.

These **masks DO NOT WORK**. There is no evidence that masks stop this virus. We were masked up for 2 years while infections sky rocketed. In schools and daycares, they are used as a tissue, napkin, slingshot, blindfold and bandanas... Students, in the city, wear the same masks for days, weeks and months. They are carrying more dirt, snot, disease and illness than a toilet seat and are disgusting. The majority of people asking to mask have not sat in a school with 500 students for 8 hours. Forcing children to wear mask and restricting their oxygen is unacceptable, disgraceful, ineffective and I view it as child abuse.

Consequentially, these **students have suffered the social, emotional and psychological effects in direct correlation to forcing these masks** and scaring kids into submission. Scared teachers enforcing these masks by screaming and threatening punishment is unnecessary and destructive to our kid's education and wellbeing. We are seeing the increased behaviors, depression and anxiety... numerous damaging effects-everyday. These students do not understand what is happening, they are being made to feel diseased, dirty and these teachers are more worried about masks over noses than the emotional welfare and educational needs of our kids. It's out of control. I want to see students' faces. Teach them emotions and that they are cared for. I want to see these teachers, parents and administration focused on education, not politics or screaming at innocent kids. No more.

**Forcing healthy teachers to test for a disease they don't have is discrimination**, these orders pit vaccinated against the unvaccinated. Teachers are being forced to test, not privately, but in the teacher's lunch room, for a disease they don't have. **These tyrannical mandates** are creating a hostile environment for all invested in our children's education. These measures are not stopping the virus, but creating a wide variety of problems from implementation to effects of discriminatory practices. No more.

These one-size-fits-all mandates are wrong on all fronts. We do not educate our kids one way. We do not medically treat patients one way, one way and one size is not a strategy that works in any school or for any health reason, why are we treating our students and teachers this way? This is not stopping the virus, but it is stopping many students from getting an education. The highest law in our land is the US CONSTITUTION and in that is our BILL OF RIGHTS. The bill of rights guarantees some fundamental rights including the right to a free public education! Does not say.. well.. only if you wear a mask... only if you take this vaccine.. NO. What if these kids or teachers refuse to wear a mask??? They get booted from school, do they get educated? Like last year when you removed the religious rights and freedoms of 1000s of CT school children. What about those kids you are removing or preventing from receiving an education?? How does Connecticut plan to educate all these students you are continuing to segregate? Make it right.

NO more lockdowns. NO more restrictions. NO more mandates or executive orders that remove any of our freedoms. Each individual or parent chooses what is right for them and their children.

I look forward to government getting back to treating teachers and students with dignity and respect. I want the legislatures to make sound laws that adhere to our first amendment rights guaranteed as citizens of the United States of America. We will not be ruled upon by one dictator, that is not the way our country works. My freedom of choice and my religious beliefs and rights are protected and guaranteed by TITLE VII of the Civil rights Act and by the US Constitution and the Constitution of Connecticut.

**End all Emergency orders now. You cannot remove our religious exemptions. Drop all mandates and officially reinstate all religious exemptions so all students in Connecticut can receive and an education.**

Respectfully,

Denise Koeppel