

February, 7th 2022

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak about ending mask mandates for our children. If you disagree with mask choice, my question to you is, "What are you so afraid of?" This pandemic has been rough on us all, but the emergency is over. This endemic is here to stay, and it's time we learn to live with potential illness, treatment, and recovery.

Do you have a tangible parameter for finally ending mask mandates? You say things like, "Just a little while longer," or, "We'll have to look at the numbers." Those are childish excuses. You all sound like my 8 year old asking for 5 more minutes of TV time.

I can't believe people are still rejecting mask choice. After all the documented harm these masks have caused our children; mental health issues, speech delays, learning difficulties, trouble breathing, headaches, bacterial infections; after all this, people are still spouting "follow the science?"

We're not following the science. We're grasping at straws for a cure-all, hoping our "resilient" kids won't notice we've destroyed their childhood because we've wrongly pretended masks are only beneficial with no risk. You should be ashamed of how long this charade has continued. Where there is risk, there must be choice. It seems like the legislative majority in our state has forgotten this very basic concept.

So again I ask, what are you so afraid of? Do you honestly think if you give parents a choice, everyone will unmask immediately, and everyone will get COVID? Do you have no faith in natural immunity? Why mandate masks a "little while longer," and "wait and see what the numbers show?" Are parents all of a sudden going to be more capable when the percentage rate is just where you'd like it?

We either know what's best for our children's health or we don't! We either have rights as parents or we don't! Stop making excuses. Enough with the science slogans and false hope for a future with zero illness. Please stop projecting your fear on me. My child is 10 times more likely to die in a car accident than from covid, but I still drive to the grocery store.

We may never see eye-to-eye on this matter, but I'm not forcing you to remove your mask if you want to wear one. Imagine how you'd feel if I did. We've done it your way long enough. You've taken away our rights as parents long enough. It's time to let go of your control and be humbled by this very important truth; once the mask mandate is gone, just like every other state without one, Connecticut will actually be just fine.

Thank you,  
Liz Patterson