

February 8, 2022

Dear Senators and Representatives,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak today. I wish it was in person in an official legislative session.

I have been listening all morning to the information that you will be basing your decision on. I have yet to hear a single statistic offered by the DPH to justify the continuation of the mitigation strategies that are being enforced in schools. I hope you have all read the latest Johns Hopkins meta-analysis that shows that all of the mitigation strategies that have been implemented during the pandemic nationwide have had only a miniscule amount positive benefit .... BUT AT WHAT COST!

Our representatives and senators are elected to their positions and our government is set up with a series of checks and balances. THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH is NOT. I cannot fathom why our ELECTED officials who are contemplating voting YES for the continuation of these 11 Emergency Orders are willing to relinquish their power to UNELECTED OFFICIALS at the DPH. WE ELECTED YOU TO REPRESENT US!

Our children have virtually zero risk from harm from Covid, yet they continue to bear the highest burden of anyone in the community. They have lived for two years being told that they are responsible for their families and friends getting sick, causing unimaginable stress and anxiety. Is it any wonder that the Surgeon General issued a "mental health emergency" for our children? My two children have lost any joy that they had related to learning and school. My children, who previously loved school, dread going every day.

To put the risk of covid into perspective for our kids they are more likely to die from the following causes than from Covid:

- Auto accidents
- Congenital malformations
- Assault and Homicide
- Heart Disease
- Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
- The Flu
- Pneumonia
- Suicide
- Drowning
- Fire and burns

I am SO SICK AND TIRED of seeing pictures of Government officials visiting our schools and watching Board of Education members at meetings take their masks off to talk to be heard clearly and pose maskless for photo ops YET our kids are constantly yelled at, punished and harassed to pull their masks up in school. The governor is in a high-risk age category, and I am sure some of our Board of Education Members have underlying condition, they are, therefore, at much higher risk from serious complications from Covid, yet they are allowed to breathe freely and see and hear the people they are talking to.

The decision to mask or not must be given to the parents, not the DPH, not our local Boards of Education.

Please VOTE NO TO THE CONTINUATION OF THESE EXECUTIVE ORDERS. Any elected official who votes to continue these orders are culpable for the harm that continues to be done to our children and it is my sincere hope that these legislators will be voted out in November.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Sherriff

1 River Lane

Southport, CT