

Testimony of Jill & James Gussis for informational public hearing re CT Governor's emergency powers/extending COVID executive orders:

We are making known we DO NOT agree with approving Governor Lamont's request to extend his emergency powers and pass legislation to codify some of his previous executive orders -- namely, 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.

We are making OUR OPINION known that we are AGAINST mask mandates especially for Connecticut school children, whether in private or public school systems.

CDC recently agreed masks do not stop the spread of COVID. Other studies have confirmed children and school systems do not pose a significant health risk, nor are schools considered super spreaders. Being vaccinated is not stopping the transmission of COVID and thus mandatory vaccination status for our students should not be legislated. Other studies also confirm the **severe mental health risk and developmental delays our children are experiencing due to masking**. If we are to follow the science, we should also adjust to current scientific findings. These executive orders are no longer applicable and are an overreach and must expire on February 15, 2022.

We ask that our elected officials abide by their constituents (including Governor Lamont) and vote to end the Governor's emergency powers.