

The United States of America should never again force mandates on its citizens. This is the land of the free, yet you took away people's freedom to choose by forcing mask wearing. You took away people's freedom of religion by removing their religious exemptions from vaccinations. Lockdowns should never happen again. You ruined businesses by forcing these lockdowns and it did not reduce the death rate significantly. According to a Johns Hopkins study, lockdowns only reduced COVID-19 death rates by .2%.

This social experiment of control has failed on many levels but succeeded on creating human misery. Your mandates are responsible for all the increased abuses that have occurred during this pandemic. Spousal abuse, child abuse, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, among other abuses. Your mandates are responsible for the increase in depression and suicides that have occurred. Your mandates are responsible for people losing their jobs, their careers, their livelihood, and their homes just because they chose not to get this vaccine that does not work. We all know that the science proves these people should never have been fired in the first place. Every person fired from their place of employment for choosing not to get vaccinated should get their jobs back immediately with retroactive pay dating back to the day they were fired. And do not even think you will get away with forcing the unvaccinated to continue wearing masks when everyone knows that the vaccinated are getting and spreading COVID.

Your mandates have negatively impacted our kids and studies are being published daily that support this.

A report came out on January 20th stating that mask mandates are causing over a 350% surge in childhood speech delays. Jaclyn Theek, a clinic director and speech-language pathologist at the Speech and Learning Institute in North Palm Beach, Florida stated, "This has been a very challenging year." The clinic experienced a 364 percent increase in patients who were babies and toddlers with speech issues amidst the pandemic. Prior to the onset of COVID-19, only 5 percent of the clinic's patients were in this age group.

On January 28th, NPR published an article where they go into detail on a number of mask issues like, "It's hard for children to wear masks properly", "Masks can interfere with young children's brain development", "Masks can make it harder to hear and understand speech", "Masks can inhibit social interactions".

Just today, a new study from York University in Canada found that children have a harder time recognizing faces of those wearing COVID-19 masks than adults, raising fears about their ability to socialize and make friends.

The masks, which have become an essential part of the daily lives of millions of students in America for nearly two years, change the typical way children's brains recognize faces.

According to the study, published in the journal Cognitive Research: Principles & Implications, children have a 20 percent impairment rate for recognizing masked faces.

York University assistant professor Erez Freud of Faculty of Health, the study's senior author stated that "Faces are among the most important visual stimuli. We use facial information to determine different attributes about a person, including their gender, age, mood and intentions. We use this information to navigate through social interactions."

Masks have made it difficult for humans to process faces holistically rather than by its individual features, the study found.

Erez Freud also stated that "Not only do masks hinder the ability of children to recognize faces, but they also disrupt the typical, holistic way that faces are processed. If holistic processing is impaired and recognition is impaired, there is a possibility it could impair children's ability to navigate through social interactions with their peers and teachers, and this could lead to issues forming important relationships. Given the importance of faces to social interactions, this is something we need to pay attention to."

I want everyone to stop wearing masks, but I am a realist and I know that there are some parents who will continue to have concerns if their children do not wear a mask. Masking protects the user. One-way masking with N95-type respirators protects the wearer, and N95s are now widely available for people who desire a higher level of protection against COVID-19. The only common sense and logical thing to do is to give parents and students, whether vaccinated or

unvaccinated, the freedom to choose if they want to wear a mask in school. I urge all legislators to educate their community on one-way masking, emphasizing personal choice regarding self-protection and supporting those who choose to remain masked or unmasked.