

## **Written Testimony**

**Submitted to:**

Legislative Information Hearing: Continuation of Emergency Declarations and Limited Executive Orders

**Submitted by:**

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It is past time to end the State of Emergency in the State of Connecticut! It is time to end the mask mandates for school children! COVID-19 is no longer a pandemic.

There are no scientific studies that prove masking reduces the spread of COVID-19. The data has shown what parents have known all along:

1. The risk of harm from COVID-19 to the overwhelming majority of children is infinitesimally small.
2. The adults who surround them at school have almost entirely been vaccinated and boosted and are thus at low risk for severe illness.
3. The protection provided by masks, other than N95, remains undemonstrated.
4. The harm that mandatory mask wearing has caused has been revealed in numerous recent studies.

My 13 year old son needs to be allowed to attend school without a mask. It is psychologically and developmentally damaging for him and all other school children in our state to be required to mask all day. Today, my son had his braces removed and he should have been able to go back to school and show that beautiful smile that he is so proud of. Please end the State of Emergency and allow Connecticut residents and parents to regain the right to make health decisions for themselves and their children.

Thank you,  
Jolie Johnson