

I am speaking today to urge you to vote no in extending the Governor's Emergency Orders. There needs to be a restoration of equal power of government in Connecticut. I am a mother of two and a veteran educator of 21 years. I have never seen children suffer so much than in the past two years-my students and my own children. Parents and teachers like me recognize that a child's health means more than them getting sick. Our children are not well. Our children are carrying a burden that isn't theirs to carry. As a teacher, I left the CEA because their intent, besides what Kate Dias said today, was not to keep kids in school.

I watched and listened to legislators and public health officials today sit in their offices or homes with masks off when I've been in my classroom all day with my students masked up. My children are masked up in their schools while trying to learn. Many of the restrictions placed upon children could have been stopped last year like other states have stopped. Many European countries have never had masks for children in schools or took them away quickly.

I traveled to Aruba, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina and Tennessee this past year with my children. One thing that my 9 year old pointed out was even if adults had a mask on, the children did not.

In the Constitution state, the rights and freedoms of the residents comes second to money. If you follow the money, you'll see clearly why this state is one of only 9 with emergency orders. CT has received over \$2 billion dollars and yet the cries are flooding that we need more. Today alone, Senator Anwar talked about the money coming from Fema. Gaballe talked about the \$32 million dollars per month in SNAP benefits we'd be losing and the money for rapid testing from the Governor's executive order. The Governor and his wife have made a small fortune off of PCR testing and PPE. The boards of Education have received millions in ESSR funding. I am tired of the mental health and wellbeing of the children of Connecticut being put second to money.

Lawmakers, you need to stand up for what is right. This isn't about party lines anymore. Only a small minority of Democrats voted NO in the last session. One representative even stated that there were threats made by the Governor's office to keep his orders in place. I hope that is being investigated. We need equal power in government as it was meant to be. The governor is one part of lawmaking in the state not the sole lawmaker. I'd strongly recommend listening to Tyler English again. His speech was chock full of the most useful data I've heard today.

Our children desperately need a normal life and it is up to you to stop Governor Lamont's alleged emergency. When he took a vacation to a state with no mandates while his own state is in an emergency state shows the kind of leader he is not. Holding kids

hostage due to federal handout money and the fears of adults is nothing short of child abuse.