

February 6, 2022

To Whom needs to hear this,

Hi my name is Kimberly, I am a school bus driver in Torrington Ct, and for the last 2 years I have been complying with the recommendations of wearing a mask. I am writing to say that I am strongly against them. Even though I am in close proximity to many student per day I feel the masks are doing more harm for students and adults the same. People in general especially children get many of their cues from facial expressions. I have been driving for 22 years and these last 2 years have been the hardest to connect with my students. They cannot see my smile in the morning, they get a muffled good morning. Not for Nothing but our faces are the first ones they see starting their school day and if they can't see it how is that setting the president for the rest of their day.

Behaviors have been on the rise, 10 fold these last 2 years I have had to deal with the worst behaviors I've seen in my 22 years of driving. Again I feel strongly it has to do with the children not being able to see our facial expressions and do not act appropriately because they can't get a read on our facial cues.

I can also say that on top of the stressfulness of my job I have to deal with the personal repercussions of wearing a mask. There is a major driver shortage in our country right now and I am driving with children on board 8 plus hours per day and half way through the day I feel tired and lacking energy and get a headache. I know this is from the masks because even if I remove the mask for seconds I can feel the relief of pressure and the headache feels better. And in the evening when I get home and no longer have a mask on the tiredness and lack of energy is no longer an issue.

Sincerely, Kimberly Brandmeyer