

Governor Lamont's emergency powers should be relinquished, he had two years and that's two years too long. This is no longer a pandemic about a virus, it's a pandemic of our children's developmental, social, emotional and mental health. From the beginning he instilled fear in parents worldwide with a story of an infant dieing from COVID when in fact the mother had smothered it to death and wound up testing positive for COVID. He knew the truth and lied to the public.

From the beginning our children are being calculated in terms of sales not health. When you think of elementary school for your child, you think of them smiling, laughing and running around the playground. Sharing crayons, holding hands, exchanging hugs, enjoying time in their classroom with their teachers and peers. I'm sad to say this was not my child's experience. The government has robbed my child of that experience at Bakerville Elementary, and they are continuing to rob every child of that experience.

Our children are being used as pawns in this political game of chess and it's a disgrace! A face cloth mask from your local store is not protecting anyone from this virus. Children don't even wear them properly. At this point the masks are being used to cover their facial expressions, which at a young age, children utilize these facial expressions for learning purposes. 80% of communication is non-verbal. 15% is the way it is said and 5% is what you say!

Every child that I have seen whether on the bus, after school, or during school hours through pictures that are posted have had gaps, single layer fabric and especially wet or dirty material that they wear throughout the day.

Has anyone ever wondered how this will affect the students by wearing a mask continually throughout the day? There is no data of the long term mental and social affects that this will have on children. You are relying on statistics that have fluctuated over the past 2 years with bogus numbers. You relied on PCR tests of positive numbers when we learned that their can be false positives. There is no accurate data, and with all of this talk about statistics children STILL had a 99.995% chance of survival if they contracted COVID.

UNICEF stated:

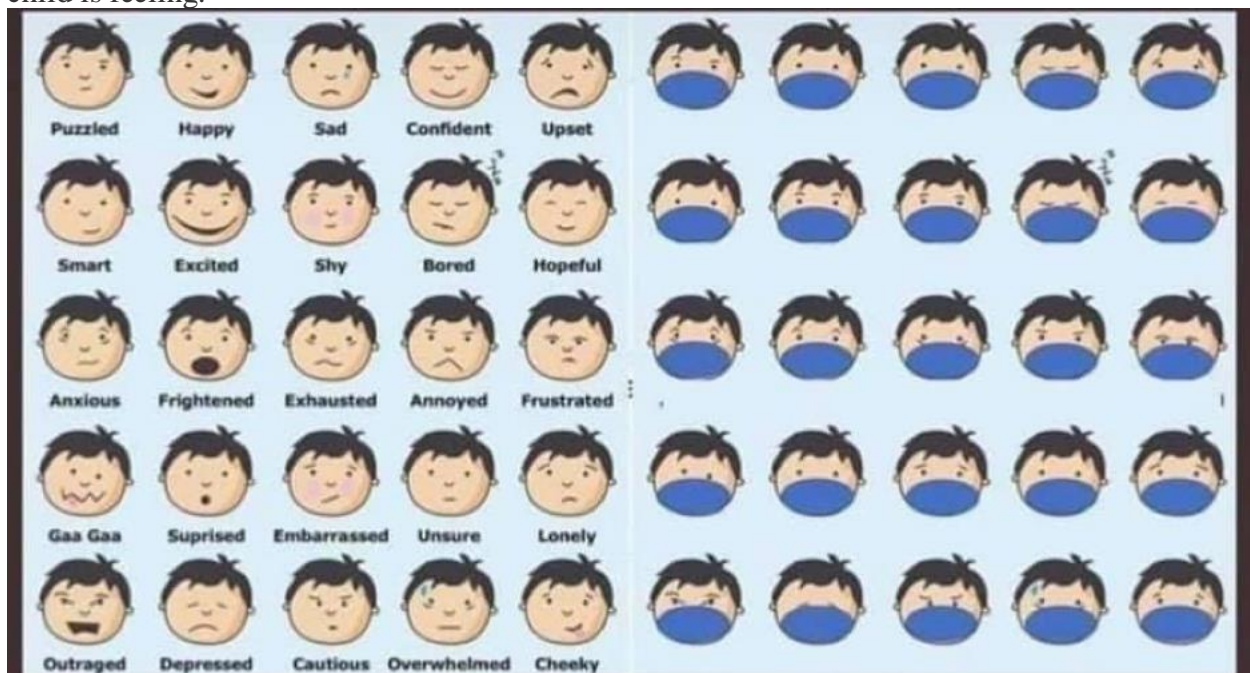
“Children are not the face of this pandemic. But they risk being among its biggest victims, as children's lives are nonetheless being changed in profound ways. All children, of all ages, and in all countries, are being affected, and, in some cases, by mitigation measures that may inadvertently do more harm than good.”

I had attached an advocacy Tool Kit for parents, teachers and administrators that came out on January 7th regarding Children, COVID and the Urgency of the normal. There are multiple authors consisting of doctors and pediatricians with various backgrounds in medicine some of whom worked for the CDC. A few key notes that the Tool Kit touches upon:

- Protecting the mental, social and emotional health of students is paramount, stating that children are experiencing alarming levels of anxiety, depression, and eating disorders, and suspected suicidal attempts.

- Student masking has no scientifically established benefit in real-world use.
- Avoid escalating mask rules or other COVID policies. It only increases fear.

A few months ago the school had sent out a screening around the social, emotional and behavioral health of the students. I had questions regarding the screening and wanted to discuss what questions would be asked. When I met with the counselor, we reviewed questions and she ensured me that the students well-being is their top priority. She mentioned that they can see when a child is sad or emotional. I in turn had asked how can they determine whether or not a child is sad or emotional when there is a mask covering their face? Her response was “their eyes”. PLEASE explain to me how you can tell if my child is sad or struggling by looking at their EYES. Here is a picture of children with multiple emotions on one side and children with masks on their face on the other. Please tell me if you could distinguish behind a mask how the child is feeling:



Yesterday morning before the bus my children were complaining about wearing their mask and I had asked if they received a mask break. They said only when they are eating snack, go outside or if they have water. My 5 year old turned to me and said Mommy, sometimes I sneak extra water because I can't breathe and need a break from my mask." MY FIVE year old is lying about drinking water so she can BREATHE. HOW IS THIS ACCEPTABLE?!?!?!?!

The fact that after almost 2 years the government is still willing to suffocate these children daily is disgusting. Each of you for continuing this has a hand in their social, emotional and developmental delay. You are wondering why so many of these kids are behind? Remove these masks so they can have a conversation with their peers and teachers and actually be able to visibly see their facial expressions. Make the masks optional so those that want to continue to wear one can, however let it be their choice.

Our children only get ONE childhood and it's being stolen from them by this mandate. They were told from the very beginning to wear a mask or else they or their loved ones will get sick and even worse die. That by wearing one, they are protecting their peers and teachers. These are children, and they should have never been made to feel that their peers and teachers fear them because of a virus that they may not even have. They are carrying a burden that was never theirs to carry. What does it take to end this, or does it end when the government stops giving you the funding?

Thank you for your time and if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.