

Good morning,

I spent yesterday listening to the entirety of the public hearing. Wow. Even as someone who feels EOs should not continue, I was blown away to see the day literally dominated - 97% of all testimonies - by one message. Given people from all sides had an opportunity to register and speak, it is hugely telling where the state of CT stands on this issue.

This emergency is long over. We are falling embarrassingly behind other states who have moved on, rather than being the progressive state you'd expect CT to be. To portray that we are in a state of emergency for the purposes of obtaining FEMA and SNAP funds? And the potential to continue masking children under the same emergency premise? It's appalling. And leaving the state for Florida if we truly are in an emergency is tone-deaf, and insulting to those you govern.

Miraculously we are able to propose tax cuts now, in an election year, after amassing funds via six extensions of power. And have the gall to ask for a seventh extension.

Putting decisions on local towns and school districts is redirecting the responsibility. If the mask mandate should end, it should end, and an emergency order has no place going forward. If you heard anything yesterday, parents demand the ability to manage their child's health risks as appropriate. Schools are responsible for EDUCATION, not for managing health. Covid-19 now has a mortality rate 3-6 times less than the flu (see research referenced in "Omicron Is in Retreat", NY Times, Jan 19). So, unless we are mandating masking for the flu and all else going forward (and, N95 only), this needs to END.

We have heard it too many times - "it will expire in six months" etc. The can can't be kicked any longer.

Based on the hours of powerful testimony, the "will of the people" has become utterly clear. A vote to continue the EO package, or to continue 9-1 specifically, would be in total opposition to what you were told yesterday by constituents. It would be a complete disregard for the democratic process. And if you compromise the integrity of your role, to represent the people, it will be remembered in November!

I look forward to a vote tomorrow that reflects the undeniable sentiment of the people.

Sincerely,

Kristen Frame
Fairfield, CT