

I am writing to strongly OPPOSE the continuation of Emergency Declarations and limited Executive Orders. I am a public school teacher of 16 years in the state of Connecticut. I am in shock of the general lack of public knowledge surrounding how deeply damaging the mitigation strategies that we currently have in place are for students. As a teacher, I strictly adhere to the CT Code of Professional Responsibility for Teachers, first and foremost in my responsibility to the student. As a whole, I have been disgusted by how many teachers could care less about the well-being of their students over the past two years because they are so focused on not getting sick.

I have children coming into my classroom on a daily basis begging for mask breaks. Their behavior has gotten progressively worse over the past two years as well because they are being forced to wear masks, which interferes with their sensory processing. And for the first time in my career, I see several children on a weekly basis, who CAN talk, but REFUSE to talk because of the masks. My own child is struggling in reading comprehension due to the mitigation strategies and it breaks my heart that he is not able to see faces on a daily basis to help him achieve academically.

I implore you to VOTE NO on the continuation of the Governor's executive orders. Unless you can show us CONCRETE evidence that masks are a net benefit to school children and our communities, there is no reason to keep torturing children when many other states have been mask free this whole time with no differences in cases.

Lastly, I urge you to read this recent paper from Johns Hopkins University:  
<https://sites.krieger.jhu.edu/iae/files/2022/01/A-Literature-Review-and-Meta-Analysis-of-the-Effects-of-Lockdowns-on-COVID-19-Mortality.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1Pm6Dpx-rliQrUtSGrK-sHXia9pAaYdngz8XIHGbwa3KPyiJMQnE2w3vY>

"While this meta analysis concludes that lockdowns have had little to no public health effects, they have imposed enormous economic and social costs where they have been adopted. In consequence, lockdown policies are ill founded and should be rejected as a pandemic policy instrument."

Sincerely,  
Kristen Turkosz  
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