

Dear Connecticut Legislators,

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read my written testimony. I write to you today as a life-long CT resident, public school teacher of 15 years and Mom of 3 school age children.

I strongly oppose the extension of all mandates imposed by Governor Lamont. As a society we cannot afford to continue to live in fear of COVID. These mandates are affecting the mental health of society in general. Wearing masks is impacting the education of children. Young children are struggling to learn language, to speak and enunciate, to read, because they cannot see their teacher's faces. All students are suffering socially and emotionally because they stare at expressionless masks all day rather than seeing the caring smile of their teachers and friends. Schools are having a difficult time finding qualified applicants because of the vaccine mandates. Please take time to look at the whole picture and how these mandates are effecting people on a wider scale rather than just taking into account the threat of COVID. It has been stated by the CDC cloth masks don't work. People fully vaccinated and boosted can get COVID so why mandate the vaccine. Also please take into account the fact that most people have some level of immunity at this point either from having COVID or because they are vaccinated.

Again thank you for taking the time to review my written testimony.

Sincerely,

Kristle Rodriguez
Thomaston CT resident
Litchfield HS Teacher
CEA member
Mom of three