

As a concerned Connecticut parent of four school-aged children, I urge each of you in the state legislature to **exercise your decency and common sense by voting to end the mask mandate imposed by Governor Lamont.**

It remains unclear if masks significantly decrease the rate of covid transmission in schools (1), but absolutely (i) are hard to wear properly, (ii) can interfere with young children's brain development, (iii) can make it harder to hear and understand speech, and (iv) can inhibit social interactions. (2) Further, masking in schools raises the level of anxiety and frustration for those teachers and student who would choose to not wear them, and it unquestionably infringes upon their freedoms.

Making masks optional is not a novel or radical concept. Most other states in this country have chosen to go mask OPTIONAL with success. Based on CDC data, there is not a difference between covid deaths for school children based on whether one lives in a mask mandated state vs. a mask optional state.

“From January 1, 2020, to January 15, 2022, 99.999 percent of kids in California didn’t die of Covid—either because they didn’t get it, or because they recovered from it. Over that same span of time, 99.999 percent of kids in Florida didn’t die of Covid. Both states’ numbers matched the national average.” (3)

The children of Connecticut have suffered tremendously throughout this pandemic and need a return to normalcy. Again, I implore each of you, stop putting our children in unnecessary masks, let them breathe again and give them back their childhoods.

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<sup>1</sup> The Case Against Masks at School, Jan 26, 2022 – The Atlantic

<sup>2</sup> After 2 years, growing calls to take masks off children in school, Jan 28, 2022 – npr.org

<sup>3</sup> Kid Full of Life, Adults Obsessed with Death, Feb 3, 2022 – City Journal