

## Legislative Testimony

February 9, 2022

Re: Opposition to the Extension of Emergency Executive Orders

I, Lillian Worthley, am a resident of Connecticut and mother of a school-aged child. I OPPOSE extension of Emergency Executive Orders, codification of any of those orders into law, and masking and vaccine mandates. I have attended several meetings and spoken to my representatives on these issues. My testimony addresses why the measures currently proposed are inadequate.

### **1. Local Control for School Mask Mandates is Inadequate – Parent Choice must be the Standard**

Governor Lamont recently announced that the state-wide mask mandate for children in school will be lifted on February 28, 2022, and the decision-making control will shift to the DPH Commissioner, Superintendents and Towns. This measure is wholly inadequate and merely shifts control from one government entity to another. The mantra of this pandemic has been “follow the science” and now, two years later, the data is in. Cloth masks worn by children in school are completely useless against Sars-CoV-2.<sup>1</sup> Further, children under 12 years old have statistically zero probability of serious illness or death from Sars-CoV-2.<sup>2</sup> There is no public health emergency to our children. Adults in the public school have ample access to vaccinations and N95 masks if they feel at risk. Thus, there is very little risk of death or serious injury to adults in the public schools. Therefore, the government does not have justification to step in. If individuals or families feel that they are at risk of Sars-CoV-2, those PARENTS can choose masks for their children. Parental Choice must be the standard for mask in schools going forward.

Several Democrat representatives stated that they are worried about bullying for children in masks. While this could potentially be a concern, should we force all kids to wear glasses for fear of bullying? Should we force all kids to wear uniforms? Should we force all children to cut their hair the same? Bullying should be addressed by parents and administration together, but mandating around bullying is not the government’s job.

Other representatives stated that their constitutions feel “scared” without masks. While others’ feelings should be addressed by communities, feeling “scared” is not a justification for government overreach when no public health crisis exists for our children.

### **2. Federal Tax Funds, Including SNAP Benefits Cannot Justify Extension of Emergency Executive Orders**

On February 3, 2022, I attend a forum in New Canaan, CT on school masks mandates. Representative Lucy Nathan stated that she would be voting for continuation of the Governors Executive Orders because it increases SNAP benefits by \$125 and some people may need those

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<sup>1</sup> <https://centerforneurologyandspine.com/do-masks-work-see-the-review-of-over-150-studies-below/>; <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.05.19.21257467v1>; <https://nypost.com/2022/02/01/theres-no-science-behind-cdcs-insistence-on-masking-in-schools/>

<sup>2</sup> The COVID-19 fatality rate among children about 0.002%, according to the CDC. See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/planning-scenarios.html>

additional funds. While I sympathize with those struggling during this time, emergency orders should NOT be used to balance this states budget. The pandemic was not the cause of CT's near bankruptcy.<sup>3</sup> In at least 2017, it was acknowledged that "the state has entertained lavish spending habits for decades." Id.

Our children's mental health and educational protentional, our medical freedom, and personal autonomy are not for sale. The charade of "public health emergency" is crumbling and representatives, like Ms. Nathan, are outright stating they need the money for their constituents. This is not only unethical, but illegal.

### **3. COVID Vaccine Mandates Should Not be Extended as Vaccination Does Not Prevent Transmission**

Pursuant to CT Gen Stat Section 19a-131e, "... the Governor may issue an order for the vaccination of such individuals or individuals present within a geographic area as the commissioner deems reasonable and necessary in order to prevent the introduction or arrest the progress of the communicable disease ..." However, the COVID vaccine forced on selected individuals in this state under the Emergency Orders does NOT prevent transmission of COVID.<sup>4</sup> The vaccines do not arrest the progression of the communicable disease and therefore cannot be mandated under the Emergency Orders. The Emergency Orders must not be extended.

### **4. Codification of Emergency Orders Should not be Allowed**

Omicron wave has peaked and is now drastically receding. Our children have a statistically zero chance of death. Adults at risk have access to N95 masks and the choice of vaccination. We have two years of data showing that vaccine mandates, lockdowns, and masks have statistically low effects on health outcomes for the COVID pandemic. There is no justification for codification of the emergency Orders into law. The emergency is over and the measures that were put into place were ineffective. These cannot become the law in CT.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.governing.com/archive/gov-connecticut-richest-state-fiscal-problems.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/05/health/us-coronavirus-thursday/index.html>