

As a parent of two young schoolchildren in district 6 (Litchfield public schools), children who have suffered through needless and unnecessary masking for two years resulting in considerable developmental issues, I sincerely ask that you do not vote to codify into law Executive Orders 9-1 and 13 during the upcoming legislative session.

The decision to mask children going forward should lie with parents, and parents alone. This is no longer a state issue – the pandemic has transitioned to being an endemic. Other countries around the world and states/cities around the United States have acknowledged this with their policies and discontinuance of mandates. And the data continues to suggest our children are not and have never been at risk.

Our children have repeatedly been tasked with bearing the weight of the pandemic on their shoulders. A burden that grown-ups have been unwilling to share (as evidenced by schools being one of the last institutions requiring mandates). The argument has been “kids are resilient,” but as a parent living through this childrens’ crisis we have created, I can assure you, they are not resilient and they are not ok. The medical issues we are navigating with our children (ie. bloody noses, recurring coughs in the middle of the night, headaches, vertigo among others) as well as the developmental impacts (ie. deteriorating social skills, speech issues, learning deficits) and mental health issues are ours to bear alone. It will be us parents that help our kids heal, it is us parents that are up in the middle of night (and this is every night in our household) addressing these health issues and the trauma the continued masking has created, it is us parents who will bear the cost of speech and therapy in the coming years to help our children recover from what can only be described as abuse at this phase of the endemic. The liability and accountability for this atrocity falls squarely on the governor and those who have empowered him to continue this executive control.

Turning to the announcements yesterday, the hope for parents that masks could be removed in schools emanating from Ned's press conference yesterday was false and fleeting. As is par for the course with him, he did nothing that could even come close to reflecting actual leadership. He punted this football, for now, in the hopes that he could retain the ability to implement whenever he sees fit. The fact that us parents now have to wage battles with our local school board and selectmen to ensure that kids aren't masked come February 28th is one thing. The fact that even if we do win that battle for our children, EO's 9-1 and 13 will be hanging like a sword over our children's heads that any actions we put forth now can be immediately undone by Hartford. Enough is enough!

As a parent of children who are struggling, I implore you to vote no on EO's 9-1 and 13. We parents will bear the burden of helping our children recover and therefore deserve the power to make the decisions regarding what is best for their mental and physical health going forward.

A generation of children thank you for doing the right thing and giving them back the childhood they deserve so they can begin the healing process!

Sincerely,
Lisa Archibald
Bantam, CT