

2/7/2022

Subject: Continuation of Emergency Declarations and Limited Executive orders

To All it Concerns:

I strongly OPPOSE continuing any emergency declarations and / or limited executive orders. I also oppose legalizing any of the 11 EO's that has been requested to do so.

There has not been an emergency for a long time now and for it to be pushed onto the public for federal assistance seems like fraud.

For the past 2 years my family has been put through enough. My husband and I work full time and do not and did not have the luxury of doing it remotely. I am mother of 4 (10yr old, 7 yr old, twin 2 yr olds). The lockdowns and all these "mitigation strategies" I don't think was accounted for the actual well being and mental health of the actual majority of people who would be affected by any virus. As new mom of twins and on maternity leave still, I was now told that any help I needed should stay away, all offices for mental health closed (mine at least) and were not doing tele health. This caused more pain and stress on my family initially. I am lucky enough to have immediate family live close by who also feel like I do and would not miss seeing and being a part of the kids life for anything as well as making sure we all are okay.

For the mental health and wellbeing of my children when they were sent home from school in March we kept most of the news and drama away from them. Come almost into fall of 2020 we hoped things would change and therapeutics would be more offered, but that was not what was being emphasized. Now it was masks and upcoming vaccines? We had made it 5 months focusing on eating healthy, staying fit, playing outside, and encouragement of positive thinking. Medically for me this was hard once the state mandated masks in workplaces and I had to work with the EEOC in order to be able to return to work. The stigma and shame that was put upon me was awful and no one, definitely not children should have to be put through this. I am strong but my children witnesses bullying like never before from adults and many people we knew and didn't know just do to this in stores for essential items etc. The constant change of everything and uncertainty of events etc, we chose to withdraw our kids from school and homeschool them. My daughter's kindergarten was a disappointment for she didn't get to ride the bus (not remote for that was not for us and hard to do for young children). The older girls enjoyed the time home and I also was able to discover all the lack of teaching that occurred for my older one for reading and math.

Come this past fall 2021, the kids wanted to ride the bus and experience the school again. With major hesitation and knowing that they would be masked it was explained to them that it was only until the emergency powers were up in October would they have to do this. My older daughter was talked to many times without being allowed to see the nurse to call home when her mask was being addressed. She always wore it properly. Her Dr. approved of the kind she wore and that was all I was allowing her to wear. The teacher made her an example in class and made her wear a medical one under it for no reason other than she thought it was not acceptable. My daughter was willing to be sent to the principal's office if need be knowing that she still was not allowed to go to the nurse as she requested and have them call me, maybe there she would be. This occurred for 2 weeks even after I spoke with and emailed the principal, and she even went in with 2 masks on to appease them. It broke my heart and my daughters when they had to meet the teachers and see the classroom and I was told I could not attend due to my medical issue/disability and non-mask wearing ability. My younger one had a hard time but she wanted to stay, so even though she has speech issues and can't hear all the time to be able

to form the words etc.. she wanted to stay. Her teacher is fantastic and kind hearted and has never used the mask as a threatening tactic. It was told to her by an adult teacher / supervisory person at the school though that you could die if you didn't wear one. As you can imagine with a mom who medically can't wear one and brothers too little to even consider it, this has been horrifying to her and caused many anxiety issues unneeded. The whole reason I kept her home in the beginning. Having to allow her to be innocent and a child I have to go thru many steps of encouragement etc when she gets home so she can leave all that crap at school. I have both of my girls in speech therapy to fill in the gaps for they were not approved for an IEP based on "the whole class grade is at that same poor level". I will not let them fall behind just due to these "mitigation strategies" and all the kids being poorly taught.

The school buildings have poor ventilation and heating and cooling systems. This should be addressed not my kids wearing masks. They have very little breaks from them and never see their friends faces. My daughter saw a friend at the grocery store and she didn't recognize her 😞. The whole idea of quarantine is too much. Keeping healthy kids stuck many times for no reason just causes resentment or anger. My daughter had bowel issues and had a fever and rightfully so was sent home. She had to explain to EVERYONE when she returned that she didn't have COVID and others could be with her. The discourse she felt and shared with me was soooo sad. She tried convincing me to allow her to come home again and be homeschooled if "all this covid stuff was going to continue". My daughters now have a fear of getting sick for then they can't go to school or play sports or have to explain where there may have gotten it from. They will try and hide coughing or a runny nose to me? This is awful. They get nervous going into places not knowing if someone will yell at them or not or at me. So much unneeded pressure and anxiety on such fragile minds. I have had to remind them that our immune system and staying healthy ourselves is all we can do. If you are sick stay home and not then don't. If you are afraid or have medical issues then avoid people and places and protect yourself as most of us with issues have always done.

Right now I feel like we have been stuck in an abusive relationship. The governor and all those who think they know what's best keep beating us down with each order and mandate with no repercussions or accountability on them for all the pain and suffering and loss they have caused. At some point we the victim will either leave or end up worse off by staying. Please stop this abuse and allow all of us to mentally heal from all of this.

My girls are tough and they have had enough. My family has had enough. Dr and offices have lost their empathy for people as well as the school staff and all others that don't have to participate in daily activities. This is not what I want for myself or family growing up.

Enough is enough. Stop with these draconian authoritarian powers and give us back our freedom of choice to do what's best for ourselves and families.

No more emergency powers and no extending anything. Masks need to come off and smiles need to come back.

Respectfully

Lynda D.
E.Haddam CT

