

OPPOSED to Continuation of Emergency Declarations and Limited Executive Orders

Dear Connecticut Legislators,

I urge you to DISCONTINUE the governor's emergency orders and any/all Covid-19 related mandates. This includes NO more mask mandates on school children.

My wife and I chose to homeschool our 5-year-old son this year instead of enrolling him into our public school for kindergarten. The state took away our ability and right as parents to CHOOSE what we feel is best for our child with mask mandates. This directly influenced our decision to homeschool when we were not otherwise planning to do so. We are both public school graduates with successful careers in nursing and law enforcement. Until the state shows the ability to return the power to parents with mask choice we will continue to homeschool and distrust the public-school option.

Parents that wish to mask their child can continue to do so. However, for the legislators or teacher unions who seek to continue coerced mask wearing I advise you to worry about yourself and leave our children alone. It is well past time to give children their innocence and joyful childhood years back.

I caution individuals or groups who are pushing for any more mandates. Your reputation will never be repaired. Parents have less and less trust in the educational institutions than ever before and the trust will continue to erode with every passing week their child continues to be forced to mask for theatrics or special interests.

The government has had nearly two years to test, study and research the effectiveness of cloth masks and has failed to show any significant studies showing effectiveness of wearing cloth masks by students who are the least vulnerable to Covid-19. However, there is significant tangible evidence indicating that as a result of forced mask wearing, children's academic achievements and mental health are suffering.

The State of Connecticut is nearing a pivotal moment which will have grave effects on the future of our state. The longer the government forces irrational, ineffective, and unwanted Covid-19 related mandates on the people of CT, the less faith and trust the people will have in the government. There is no telling when the breaking point is, but I can assure you that soon parents and students will no longer comply with these measures as they have faithfully done for almost 2 years now. Do not bring this to the point where students and parents show up to schools unmasked prior to receiving "approval" because this is currently happening in other states. This will only lead to further erosion of trust between the school officials and students/parents with confrontations, student segregation, student suspensions and potentially police being requested to remove parents from the school grounds.

Make the Right Choice. Return the power to the people. **END THE MANDATES.**

Sincerely,

Michael Edwards

Thomaston, CT