

Hello,

I am writing today to OPPOSE the extension of emergency orders and the remaining 11 orders being voted upon as a single vote, and most specifically to oppose the school mask mandate.

In March 2020, Covid entered, and took hold of our lives. There were so many unknowns. We followed the direction of the government and the people appointed in charge of our public health organizations. We stayed home. We wore masks. We obsessively washed our hands and our groceries. We didn't see friends or family. We disrupted our children's childhood. We lived in fear. Our children were told they were silent spreaders and that being even around them was possibly killing someone's grandparents somewhere. We went back to school, behind computer screens and then behind plexiglass. We did the best we could with the information we had. But as time progressed, and as the most recent John Hopkins meta analysis suggests, all of these lockdown efforts did very little to stop the spread or bring the pandemic to an end. What we do know now, is that we have only just begun to see the damages that are still continually being done to our children in the name of science and safety.

As of the fall 21-22 school year, I have 3 children in the Public school system. I am writing you today in hopes that you will fight for our children to attend school with masks being optional.

The data suggests that the 0-18 age range is minimally impacted by Covid-19. According to CT.gov site, there has been 7 confirmed deaths in that age group, out of 140,385 confirmed cases, within that same age group, Equalling a .0049% chance of death. At this point, teachers, administrators, every parent, school aged child, grandparent, aunt, uncle, coach, and custodian have had an opportunity to be vaccinated, if that is their choice. Therefore, the narrative that although the kids might not be impacted, they are spreading it to teachers and families does not play out.

The kids in the school system have essentially lost a year or more academically. They have suffered immeasurable consequences from not being able to interact and socialize with their friends, cancelled sports, and being made to feel that they are inevitable spreading disease to their loved ones. This needs to end. The elderly, the immunocompromised, those most at risk from adverse events from Covid-19 have had the opportunity to be vaccinated. Please do not make our children suffer anymore. My kids have told me they have to eat in silence because they can not talk when their mask is removed. So one of the only social points of their day they must sit and eat in silence? How is this ok with anyone? They only have access to the playground maybe once a week because of the alternating schedule, other days it's the black top. They cannot see or talk to any friends in other classes.

My kindergartener had to enter sight unseen because she was unable to attend a orientation day. She came home recently telling me that she has germs and that the only people she should be around without a mask is her parents and brother and sisters.

My son plays basketball in a mask. Running up and down a court for an hour with his breathing obstructed. My daughter cheered for a full season in a mask, yelling, stunting, tumbling. How is this safe? How is this healthy? How is this still going on?

This is the third school year affected by Covid restrictions. Three school years of their childhood, masked, unable to socially interact with friends. My fifth graders are forced to wear masks outside for recess, please point me to this data that supports this. My children were told that now if their mask is seen below their nose they will be sent to the office, yet, they are not given a single mask break throughout the day. How is this even a reasonable request to be made of a child.

I carried these children, I bathed, I fed, I taught them how to tie their shoes and apologize when they are wrong. I am asking you, to please give the power back to parents and

individuals. Please oppose the extension of emergency orders. Please push that the 11 orders still standing are separately voted upon. Lastly, please vote for mask choice.

Thank you,  
Michele MCPADDEN