

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to urge you to vote against extending the Emergency Powers of Governor Lamont. There's no emergency. Please vote NO.

The mental health of our children is being destroyed and I'm urging you to let parents decide what is best for their children.

Covid poses almost zero danger to kids, yet we're masking them to supposedly protect the adults. Even if we step away from all those studies showing masks don't work against viruses, when in history did we ever put the responsibility of protecting the adults on children? When ever were the children responsible to protect adults?? Robbing children from many special moments in their childhood in order to supposedly protect the fully vaccinated adults around them?

There are many sad moments I've experienced during the last two years because of the Covid measures, one of them was during Thanksgiving time. A room full of cub-scouts and their parents, probably about 100 people, the kids were doing an activity where they wrote and shared out loud what they are thankful for. Could have been so valuable for everyone, especially the little children, listening to others, finding the same gratitude in your heart, listening to peers, hearing more and more reasons for feeling grateful, having this good feeling warm your heart... but the children were robbed of this... because the kids couldn't hear each other because of masks. Not only the sound was lost, but you can't even recognize some of the words by lip-reading, and you can't see emotions on kids' faces when they speak of what they're grateful for... how many hundreds of experiences like this we have robbed our children of during these many months?

Ms Russell-Tucker spoke to the importance of in-person learning for emotional support, but place yourself for a moment back into a little child. Except now adults in schools make you feel like you're dangerous to other people, you're being told you can't come close to anyone, because they are dangerous and if you do, you might kill grandma... you're told a dangerous virus is everywhere around you, and at the same time, you can't breathe freely, you only see faceless people around you, you can't read face expressions, which makes it harder for you to read adults' emotions, it's harder for you to hear what everyone is saying... you're not allowed a physical contact at all, no hugs or hand holding... would that little child really feel safe, is that good for his/her emotional state? In many kids that does create anxiety and it's totally understandable. Yet, the data shows that kids are at a near zero danger of dying of Covid – more kids die in car accidents.

I am grateful for the opportunity to speak yesterday – thank you! Yet, I am saddened for all those people who wanted to be heard, but weren't allowed – that doesn't seem fair at all.

Please vote against extension of the Governor's emergency powers, even the word “emergency” creates fear in people. Please let parents decide on masks.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Nadezhda