

My name is Nicole Rogers. I am a stay at home mother of three children ages 6, 3 and 20 months. My husband and I moved to Brookfield from the Bronx in May of 2009. We moved to CT because it was affordable and a beautiful state. Brookfield had good schools and was close to our jobs at the time. Our eldest daughter Emily started Kindergarten in August of 2020. We were thrilled that she was able to be in person and did not mind sending her in a mask. We encouraged her to wear a mask. In the Spring of 2021 she came home one day and told me it was hard for her to breathe at school. When I asked her if she removed her mask she replied that she was "too scared to remove it". My daughter was too afraid to breathe. Then I started noticing her masks were soaked every day. They still are to this day. I have no idea why they are soaked. My 6YO cannot explain to me what's going on. She sucks on her mask for 8 hours a day. How is this sanitary? How is her lack of oxygen and sucking in chemicals all day okay for her well being? There are days she comes home and she cannot form a sentence. We bring her outside to get some fresh air. The lack of oxygen is affecting her brain function. At some point we will say enough is enough and remove her from the school that she loves so much. How can we watch this child abuse any longer? Our 3YO has suffered severely from this pandemic too. Not only is she socially stunted but she has a speech delay. We enrolled her in prek3, however, with her constantly being sick and her refusing to wear a mask we had to take her out. It is not reasonable to be taking kids to the doctor and having them tested every week for a sniffle. We cannot get her the help she needs because of this pandemic. This pandemic has stunted the normal progression of all three of our children. I am asking you to please vote NO. Please let the use of a medical device be left to the parent. Allow parents to make the choices for their families. Not every child is the same. This should no longer be a one size fits all approach. You don't get to make laws that deny a person's right to exist as they were born. If you vote yes we plan on leaving CT as this state is no longer a place where we want to raise children. If you "NO" vote is a vote for our children.