

Dear Members of the CT General Assembly:

I am writing to request that you VOTE NO on the upcoming vote being taken to extend all and any of the COVID emergency executive orders previously issued by Governor Ned Lamont...

Hello, I am Olivia Haliulin a 15-year-old sophomore in Weston High School. For the past two years, I have been battling against my school's mask mandate policy's though I have a valid exemption from an inability to learn as easily as I used to due to the mask interfering with attention. I fiddle with my mask, and it causes me to not focus. Furthermore, I've thrown up from the masks on multiple occasions. Earlier in schools starting up again, it used to be just me not having much information to care what my opinion was on the masks, social media and people can hide things from you... Progressing into the years I would come to see how staff would comment; "people should really be wearing their masks!" That's what the nurse said as I passed through my guidance counselor's office, her mask was completely off. It was affecting students academically as well; "hey! Put up your masks or I'm taking off points on your daily grade," the gym teachers say. How do you expect us to do this? How are we supposed to do physical activities in such ways indoors? Every time I hear the phone ring in the class, I already know it's me. Seeing my principal in the halls, it's like PTSD, to be honest. Being followed outside by the security officer because I took my mask off 2 feet away from the doors inside about to leave the school. Being told to put my mask on while I'm walking out of the bathroom or simply standing and eating in the halls, it's exhausting and I'm past words. The results from the mask increased irritation, acne, and people's insecurities and timidness were rising. Beginning to become scared to show their face, people had gotten used to how these masks let them hide. It has affected myself and other students across the U.S. Feeling abused and neglected, I am speaking out to have people understand that what Weston Public Schools is doing to me, my fellow students, and our towns activity is beyond dehumanizing. It's enough.