

2/7/2022

Patricia Spooner

Colchester/ East Haddam

Dear Representative/Senator,

I believe it is time to follow the science and give parents the choice when it comes to masking in schools. Masking in schools was intended to be temporary, and there needs to be an exit ramp from these policies. Children have been suffering from mask effects for two years, and enough is enough. If Students, and teachers feel uncomfortable or are at higher risk, they can wear a mask. Likewise, if parents do not yet feel comfortable with their children going maskless, or their child is at higher risk medically, they are free to continue masking.

The long-term harm to kids from masking is potentially enormous. Masking is a psychological stressor for children and disrupts learning. Covering the lower half of the face of both teacher and pupil reduces the ability to communicate. Children lose the experience of mimicking expressions, an essential tool of nonverbal communication. Positive emotions such as laughing and smiling become less recognizable, and negative emotions get amplified. Bonding between teachers and students takes a hit. Overall, it is likely that masking exacerbates the chances that a child will experience anxiety and depression, which are already at pandemic levels themselves.

Please vote NO to the extension on the emergency powers. Our kids are not pawns let them be kids again!

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Patricia Spooner