

February 6, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you in favor of lifting the Governor's Emergency Order on February 15.

Allow local districts and local Board of Education in the state of Connecticut, along with their residents and parent bodies, make decisions about the wellbeing of our children.

Social distancing measures including face masks are suspected of causing young children's development to have drop by up to 23 percent during the COVID pandemic, according to a new study out of Brown University.

All new research about masking in our schools is pointing in one direction – we are sacrificing the academic, social and emotional wellbeing of our children. We are sacrificing the wellbeing of future generations who are the least at risk of fatality from Covid-19.

My 4th grade son at North Street School, who has no prior breathing related issues, says *"Mom do I have asthma? I have trouble breathing at school in a mask."* He feels unsafe at school because he cannot catch his breath masked for over 6 hours every single weekday.

Please allow local districts and parent bodies to have the CHOICE to mask their children. Their futures are at stake.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Penny Goffman
Greenwich, CT resident