

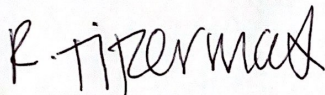
Dear Legislative Leadership –

Please do not vote to extend Governor Lamont's emergency powers and please do not vote to pass legislation to codify EO 9-1 and EO 13.

I am a mother of four children (ages 3, 6, 6, and 8) and I have seen how the prolonged use of masks in schools have taken a toll on my children. Masks in schools promote a culture of fear and disconnection. They inhibit my children's ability to develop proper social skills and they infringe upon language development. They are disruptive and get in the way of clear communication between children and teachers. Children deserve to see smiles during their school day. I moved to Connecticut seven years ago and I have been happy raising my children here. For the most part I think the state has done a good job of navigating the difficulties related to the COVID-19 pandemic. But the time has come to return to normal. I cannot envision a future for my family in this state if masks in schools remain an option. We are learning now that they are not an effective mitigation strategy and leaders like you need to act.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Tipermas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "R" being large and prominent.

Rebecca Tipermas