

2/9/2022

To Whom it May Concern:

I'm a lifelong resident of CT with 3 children in the public school system. I'm asking that you end the mask mandates as of February 15th, when they are set to expire, and not extend them. I'm also asking that you do NOT give DPH, or anyone else, the power to reinstate them.

I am absolutely disgusted by the theatrical gaslighting Governor Lamont displayed during his announcement the other day. He took full credit for "getting us to this point" where we now "deserve" to be unmasked. There is nothing an individual should be forced to do to "deserve" the right to bodily autonomy. He was taking credit for a virus running its natural course, which a recent study from Johns Hopkins shows that it would have done so with or without the useless mitigation practices that have been forced upon us for the past two years. The Constitution says we do not need to earn our right to bodily autonomy by being good boys and girls, like our patronizing Governor suggested. The Constitution does not make exceptions for a pandemic.

The choice to wear a mask should NEVER be up to anyone other than an individual or a parent/guardian of an individual. Masks are a medical intervention. Governor Lamont, the legislative branch of this state, and DPH are not my doctor, or my child's doctor, and therefore do not know our full medical history. By mandating a medical intervention, those involved are practicing medicine without a license. This should not be an option now, or in the future. Even medical professionals do not force medical interventions on patients. They inform patients of risks and benefits, and allow the patient to decide. Medical interventions should always be a choice, and should never involve government entities.

I have seriously considered, researched and strategized removing my children from the public school system, or moving from CT altogether. As a small business owner, mandates and closures have seriously hurt my business, livelihood and overall health.

There are times that I do choose to wear a mask, or choose to make my children wear masks, when I decide it is appropriate. I assess each situation, weigh the risk vs. benefit, and decide accordingly. I plan to continue to do this until the pandemic is over.

My children have caught an average of two colds per month since school started, while everyone was wearing masks. COVID-19 is more transmissible than most viruses, so I am sure they would not be protected if one of those colds were COVID-19. They are not mitigating viral spread significantly, nor will they if cases go back up and DPH and individual school systems try to implement a mask mandate again. Please stop ignoring data and science. The only masks that have been shown to help mitigate transmission have been N95s, which dramatically increase CO2 levels in the bloodstream which has been shown to be dangerous, and more so for children.

I've experienced an autoimmune flare - doctors admit possibly because of the effect constant masking has had on my immune system. Of course they will not write a medical exemption because of the threats made to doctor's licenses if they go against the government-controlled narrative. With an autoimmune disease, I am sensitive to elevated levels of CO2 in my bloodstream, which has caused my immune system to attack itself. While I walk around "considering others (even though others can protect themselves with an N95)," no one is considering me. If you pride yourself on inclusivity, mandates of any sort are hypocritical. Let individuals make their own choices that affect their health.

Where there is any risk at all, there must be choice. Anything else is pure tyranny.

Thank you,

Stephanie Evans  
Killingworth, CT