

February 7, 2022

Dear Elected Officials,

The extension of Governor Lamont's emergency powers NEEDS TO BE VOTED DOWN.

We have gone on long enough with autocratic rule and executive orders taking the place of actual laws in this state. It is the duty of the representatives of the people of this state to create and enact laws. It is not the duty of the governor to unilaterally enact "mandates" without the due process that the people of this state deserve.

In March 2020, there was uncertainty about a novel virus that led to a "state of emergency" while we learned about it and how it affects us. But in the time approaching March 2022, almost two years later, there is no emergency. We have learned so much, and we now know that this virus will not be eradicated, but will be endemic and something we need to live with, like the common cold and flu.

We know what symptoms to look for, how to treat them (which the vast majority of people can do successfully at home with over-the-counter medicines and rest), and to just stay home if we're sick (which people should have had enough sense to know prior to now). We are much more educated in how this virus works and spreads, and there are such simple and logical ways to keep ourselves healthy and protect ourselves from this and any other virus. Eating nutritious foods, getting the proper amount of vitamins, exercising and maintaining a healthy weight, and taking care of our mental health and stress levels are all ways to stay healthy that people, again, should have had enough sense to know prior to now.

It is quite interesting, though, that the government has not tried to encourage any of these logical strategies this entire time. I've seen so many incentives to take the shots (donuts and even cash), bribes, coercion, and threats, but not any encouragement for two years to just take care of ourselves. As a matter of fact, many of the policies and mandates enacted have been extremely detrimental to mental and physical health. Some of those include telling people to stay home for months, forcing them to close their businesses, preventing children from being in school and forcing them to lose out on childhood experiences that they can never get back, and telling people to eliminate all social interaction. All of these policies have NOT stopped this virus, but have had a tremendously negative effect on mental and physical health. It seems the push to wear a mask and get vaccinated has over shadowed all other strategies to preserve and enhance health.

Masking has unfortunately not been the answer. Wearing a piece of porous cloth, that for many people has been balled up in their pockets or hanging from their rear-view mirror for days/weeks/months, is unfortunately not going to stop a contagious respiratory virus. Neither are surgical masks, most of which are manufactured in China using numerous chemicals, and carry a disclaimer clearly on the box stating that they do not stop the spread of viruses.

It is a severe detriment to children to be wearing a mask 6-8 hours a day, breathing in their own expelled air, their faces covered with bacteria breeding in that moist environment,

experiencing skin irritations and rashes, never seeing facial expressions, being yelled at to keep their mask up instead of being taught their schoolwork. I have two young children in public schools who have lost out on two years of their lives that they will never get back. They've missed out on learning, field trips, holiday celebrations, birthday parties, sports, school events, friendships, educational and social progress, just so much time lost.

They are strong and have endured all of this with great perseverance, but they shouldn't have had to. And at this point, there is absolutely NO need to continue masking them in school, or anywhere else. These masks are giving people a false sense of safety and that is all. If you so choose to wear one or have your children wear one, that should be your choice. I respect that choice. But masks are medical devices, and we as parents should have the right to choose whether or not we want, or need, a medical device on our children's faces.

There has been a lot of talk about wearing a KN95 or N95 now also, but that is really not feasible for most people. People can't even keep the cloth or surgical masks above their noses all day. They are constantly fidgeting with them, pulling them up and down to eat, drink, and even talk to others, all the while continuously transferring germs from their hands to their mask and vice versa. A properly fit tested N95 stays on your face, making a tight seal to keep germs out. But it can be so tight that it leaves severe bruises on some people's faces after extended wear. It can be extremely painful and exhausting to wear them for many hours.

If people choose, they can now take one of the many "vaccines," and I use that term loosely because they clearly haven't prevented the spread of the virus as an actual vaccine usually does. Looking at the numbers of cases in December 2021 and January 2022, there is no way the spread can be blamed solely on the unvaccinated. When the majority of people in this state are "fully" vaccinated, whatever that entails at this moment, and yet we still are experiencing that amount of infection, it is clear that these vaccines are not stopping transmission. They need an extensive amount of additional study to truly know if the long-term benefits outweigh their risks.

Let me clarify, and I shouldn't have to, but I am absolutely not anti-vax, or anti-scientific advancements. My family has received many vaccines in our lifetimes. I enjoy and respect science, a huge part of which is questioning. But we have been told for over a year not to question these vaccines. Only that they are "safe and effective." Ok. They have proven to be mostly safe so far, and I'm so grateful for that. Efficacy clearly has a way to go. They possibly reduce symptoms, but they surely don't prevent disease. Among people I personally know, symptoms experienced during infection were similar, if not worse, for some of the vaccinated group. It appears that this virus, like any other, affects different people very differently, regardless of vaccination.

These "vaccines" were studied for less than a year. I know that mRNA technology has been studied before this pandemic, for decades actually, but it has never progressed far enough through testing to be utilized widely in humans, or garner an actual FDA approval. Never until they were given the opportunity for a very expedited approval due to it being a matter of "public health" to eradicate a virus. A virus in the family of the common cold and flu, which we still have not eradicated and have had flu shots since the 1940's. There is absolutely no reason why

these vaccines, with their lack of testing, lack of knowledge of long-term outcomes, and lack of prevention of transmission, should ever have been forced upon anyone. When you have to socially distance six feet and wear a mask (or two, or a heavier one than you even did earlier on) after having not just the original two, but now three shots in less than two years, are those shots really worthy of being forced on the general population?

Being someone who contracted swine flu and spent five long and hard days fighting it off in an ICU many years ago, I can personally sympathize with those who have been impacted by this virus. I pray for the families of those who were actually lost because of this virus. But without an audit of the death records, we will never truly know how many people were lost to this virus. Government officials have stated on the record that any death in which Covid-19 was present at the time of death is recorded as a “Covid” death, regardless of the actual cause of death. It could have been a heart attack, or a car accident, but it would still be recorded as “Covid” because the person happened to have this highly contagious virus in their system at the time of their death. So how can we know the true impact of this virus without knowing how many people actually died as a direct result of contracting it?

The bottom line is that we as human beings should have the freedom to choose what types of medicine or medical devices are put into or onto our bodies, or the bodies of our children. Hard working people in many countries, and even here in Connecticut, are being told that because they choose not to take the “vaccines” they cannot go to work and provide for their families. They literally cannot make money to survive. They can’t eat at restaurants, or see a play, or generally participate as free members of society. That is not morally right and is a violation of human rights.

Individuals are responsible for their own health. They have every right to make the choice to mask or vaccinate if they believe that those actions will protect them. It is not society’s responsibility to wear a mask or take a medicine that they do not need just because it makes people feel “safe.” There is no such thing as safe. We take risks and are faced with danger every single day we are on this earth. It is our job as responsible adults to protect ourselves and our children from these dangers in the ways we see fit.

The government and media are doing the American people a great disservice by extending the panic over this virus. The time has come that we move on and learn from these last two years. All we are asking for is freedom to make personal health decisions.

I urge you to vote NO to any and all extensions of emergency powers, and mask and/or vaccine mandates.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tonya M. Braccidiferro

Proud life-long Connecticut resident, working mother of two, supporter of freedom and personal responsibility.