

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you begin deliberations on the fiscal year 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we urge you to recognize the tremendous harm being caused by ongoing mandatory masking for children in schools and prohibit funds from being used by the Centers for Disease Control to recommend mandatory masking in schools going forward. We also request that no federal funds be granted to a school or school district that requires children to wear masks.

After suffering through the COVID-19 pandemic for two years, we know much more about the virus than we did in the early days of the pandemic. The need for children to wear masks while at school has been thoroughly disproven, and our policy prescriptions should reflect these facts. The American Academy of Pediatrics recently reported¹ that less than 2% of children with COVID-19 are hospitalized, and less than 0.03% of those who are infected die. The death rate overall from COVID-19 for Americans under 18 years old is 0.01%.² Additionally, children are more at risk from car crashes, firearms, drowning, and heart disease than from COVID-19.³ Even in the face of these statistics, mask-less politicians parading around in large crowds seem to demonstrate insurmountable resolve when it comes to keeping children masked in the classroom. As governors and mayors across the country

¹ <https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/children-and-covid-19-state-level-data-report/>

² <https://www.vox.com/22699019/covid-19-children-kids-risk-hospitalization-death>

³ <https://www.vox.com/22699019/covid-19-children-kids-risk-hospitalization-death>

began dropping mask mandates in restaurants, gyms, bars, and other indoor venues, masks remained in the places where they were least needed and most harmful: our schools. This is despite the fact that vaccines are now available to anyone who wants one.

While the CDC recently revised its guidance to no longer recommend universal masking in schools, the guidance could be reversed at any time. The never-ending masking mandates have no basis in science, and there is no indication that they help stop or reduce the spread of COVID-19 in schools.⁴ However, there is evidence to confirm the catastrophic impact that these mandates have on our children's speech development, emotion recognition, and mental health. The fact that so many politicians are beholden to teachers' unions and a political ideology that selectively interprets data to fit its preferred narrative and policy goals is nothing short of gross misconduct. Parents across this nation have stepped up and insisted that enough is enough. It is time for elected officials to do the same. What is at stake is no less than the future leaders of this country. We cannot sit idly by and watch a generation of Americans experience irreparable harm without putting up a fight for their wellbeing.

We invite you to join us in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



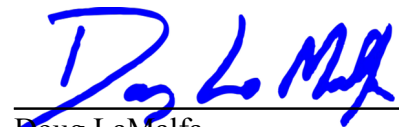
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Member of Congress




Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress




Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

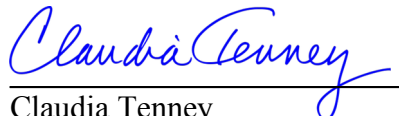
⁴ <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/01/kids-masks-schools-weak-science/621133/>



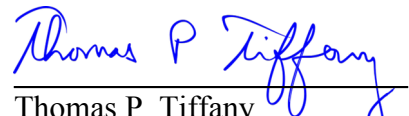
W. Gregory Steube
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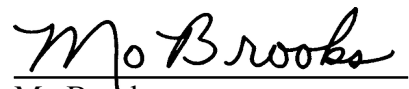
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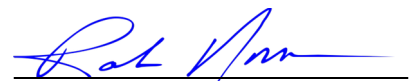
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