

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

My name is Jonathan Breen. I live in New Canaan, CT. I have been a resident of this great state for 15 years. I am here today as an individual. I am not affiliated with any public advocacy group or any special interest group. I am here on my own to stick up for individual rights, especially the rights of children. I am also here as a parent, to advocate on behalf of my two children who don't have the ability to speak out for themselves. I am their representative and it is my responsibility to stick up for them when they are being wronged. And this mask mandate was, is and will always be, wrong.

Over time, especially of late, local state and federal governments have grown in size, scope and power. They have slowly but steadily taken individual rights away and replaced them with government mandates, executive orders and "temporary" laws. In our case, individual rights were quickly taken away when the pandemic hit through emergency powers, executive orders and mandates. These mandates effected our children the most as adults selfishly took away the rights of our children, and the rights of parents to do what's best for our children while mandates for adults were quickly removed, held to different standards or just ignored by "holding our breath".

People have made the argument that these mandates were necessary at the time, that cloth masks work and have saved lives. I strongly disagree. But regardless of how or why we are here, I'm here today to urge the commission, our legislators and our government to give us back our rights. These rights don't come from government. These are our natural god-given unalienable rights of life liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Everything that has happened over the last two years and everything we do today, people generations from now will look back to see how we handled individual rights.

We don't want them believing that removing individual rights is permitted and acceptable, even in the worst situations, disasters and pandemics.

We want them to see that we stood up for democracy, we stood up for the individual, especially for those individuals who don't have a voice, the children.

I believe, in the future, we will look back on the school mask mandates as one of the most destructive things to ever happen to our children. This is child abuse. There will be long term consequences in terms of education and social and emotional development. And those most affected are those who can least afford it- low income, minorities, special needs, those who don't speak English as their native language. We need to make sure this never happens again.

You have the opportunity here to do the right thing- to stand up for individual rights and liberty, here in the Constitution State. These rights are guaranteed by our Constitution! Do not put anything in the law that could be manipulated in the future by current and future governors who use it as the basis to take away our liberties at their whim, as you have taken away our rights and the rights of our children.

Not sure what the right thing to do is? The right thing is always liberty and individual rights. There is no textbook to follow or tell you what to do? There is- it's called the Constitution.

On behalf of myself, my wife, our children and all children throughout this great state of ours, I call onto you all to END this absurd mask mandate for our children in our schools and NOT codify it into law. End this destructive and abusive child mask mandate NOW, TODAY, once and for all, and restore our individual rights and liberties.

Thank you.