

Testimony in favor of HB 1323

Chairman Dockter and Representatives of the House Political Subdivision Committee,

I am in favor of HB 1323 because it allows the citizens of ND the Freedom to choose whether to wear a mask or not wear a mask and most importantly allows our children to go to school with the same choice.

I am concerned about North Dakotans loosing their freedoms but I am also a concerned mother of three children, 5, 8, and 10. I have two children in the Bismarck School District where they are required to wear a mask to school every day in the classroom, gym class, and the playground. At this point I'd say my children have mask fatigue. I think there are many children with mask fatigue, in fact a recent study done in Germany ("Corona Children Studies "Co-Ki": First Results of a Germany-wide Registry on Mouth and Nose covering (mask) in Children") supports this. This study consists of data entered from 20,353 people on a total of 25,930 children. Impairments caused by wearing the mask were reported by 68% of the parents. These included irritability (60%), headaches (53%), difficulty concentrating (50%), less happiness (49%), reluctance to go to school/kindergarten (44%), malaise (42%), impaired learning (38%), and drowsiness or fatigue (37%). I personally could add to this, fainting. On October 1st I received a phone call that my daughter had fainted at school and to come to her classroom. My daughter has never fainted before in her life, she is a very healthy 10 year old. My first thought was because of the mask and I 100% believe that is the reason she fainted. It was a very scary situation for a 10 year old to go through in front of a classroom of her peers. When I arrived to pick her up she was still lying on the floor of her classroom unable to even sit up. She was pushed out of the school to my car in a wheelchair. I saw her go from very lifeless on the floor back to 100% within a half hour. We are very lucky she was not injured. Bismarck Public Schools has been asked to sign a liability waiver by several parents and they are not willing to take on the liability although they are the ones requiring our children to wear the mask. I'd like to see our children be able to go to school with their focus on learning, not the mask on their face.

Please support HB 1323 and support Freedom of Choice.

Kristi Brunner

Sources:

<https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-124394/v1>