



Office of the Speaker
North Carolina House of Representatives

TIM MOORE
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

February 10, 2022

Governor Roy Cooper
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Dear Governor Cooper,

Across North Carolina, people are returning to normal activities as Covid cases and hospitalizations have plummeted in recent weeks. Where mask mandates remain in cities and counties across the state, they are generally ignored by many people and businesses.

Our young children, who have always been least at risk from Covid, continue to pay the heaviest price. Schools closed in March 2020 and did not fully return to in-person instruction until August 2021. DPI officials confirmed during a legislative committee hearing last week what North Carolinians have known from personal experience: The departure from regular in-person attendance derailed academic, behavioral, and emotional development.

Even as they returned to the classroom, however, children as young as two have been made to wear masks and comply with other restrictions that are as onerous as they are ineffective and unnecessary. DHHS guidelines have all but compelled local schools to keep their mask mandates in place. In the face of that pressure, 36 school districts have already ended their mask mandates, while others are determining how to end theirs. Beyond our great state, most other states have already ended their school mask mandates.

Fully in-person classes are essential to overcoming the challenges for schools and students over the last two years. That means seeing the full face of teachers and classmates unmediated by a computer screen or a mask.

I urge you and DHHS Secretary Kody Kinsley to end the policies that disrupt classrooms and hinder student achievement. Please repeal the guidelines that force healthy kids to stay home and effectively mandate masks in schools.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Moore".

Speaker Tim Moore