

Written Testimony for the Maryland State Board of Education – February 2022

Good morning, my name is Caitlin Edmondson. First, I want to say thank you to the Carroll County Board Members, I know that you're in this fight with us. I also want to say thank you to the Concerned Parents of Carroll County and Mom's for Liberty. Thank you to all the parents fighting for their children, I commend every single one of you.

I'm a solutions person. Not a create more problems for the sake of creating problems type of person. November 2nd, covid shots were made available for all school age children. That means anyone who wanted to choose that option to protect themselves or to protect their children, have now had a little over 14 weeks to do so. Sufficient time and multiple options have been available to everyone who wants extra protections. There are so many mitigation strategies, like N95 respirators or whatever this thing is called. This one, only protects the wearer, so anyone else can choose to instead wear a smile 😊



As Dr. McBride from Johns Hopkins recommended, at this point it is time to remove the mandate on masks. There has been enough time to evaluate the options, assess the data, and make a personal choice.

With regard to the off ramps that the State has provided, please don't feed me lies that it is out of concern for the health of our children, especially when our children are handling this virus about the same or better as any seasonal flu. Bureaucrats with their one size fits all solutions would rather push an experimental shot, that does not prevent you from getting covid and that does not prevent you from spreading covid. An experimental shot that is also known to have serious adverse reactions and to cause myocarditis, especially in younger males. Why are they not counting the number of students and teachers who have had covid, which is proven to give long lasting immunity? Why isn't the percentage of people who have gotten the virus and survived, an off ramp? Because it's not about that, right?! And at this point we need to do away with off ramps completely. As parents, we know the risks, and the choice should be up to us.

Last week, my heart broke for my 6-year-old daughter who came home from school crying, begging me to change her to a school that won't make her wear masks. I'm a single mom, I don't have a lot of options to pull her in the middle of the school year. Carroll County was supposed to be mask optional.

I'm angry. I'm disappointed. I'm frustrated. I want to know what is being done to stop this. Make it optional. Do something. I continue to demand that the State Board stop their draconian tactics and let us live our lives as free and brave Marylanders, as proud Americans.

Continuing this policy is unacceptable. It is unconstitutional what you, the State, has done by overriding local jurisdictions. Enough is enough. I'm tired of saying this, it has been enough for far too long now.