

I am employed in the public school system. Our school is currently requiring masks for both staff and students. I am in support of HB 1204 for a number of reasons.

First, the evidence simply does not show any difference in transmission of covid-19 between those who wear masks regularly and those who do not wear masks. People who are catching covid 19 are generally observing all the guidelines including mask-usage. The use of masks is not the deciding factor as to whether or not you are going to catch this virus or any other virus. Here is a collection of scientific studies, that show that there has been no real scientific study that has proven masks to be beneficial in controlling a virus. The science has been done, and is currently being done, and yet there is still no positive evidence for the benefits of mass wearing of masks by the public.

[Masks Don't Work: A Review of Science Relevant to COVID-19 Social Policy | River Cities' Reader \(rcreader.com\)](https://www.rcreader.com/2020/04/20/masks-dont-work-a-review-of-science-relevant-to-covid-19-social-policy/)

Secondly, there are so many unknowns about prolonged mask usage that includes, but is not limited to:

- Do used masks become sources of enhanced transmission of the virus?
- Do masks trap and retain pathogens that the mask wearer would normally have just breathed out?
- Do masks cause increased bacterial growth that could present a danger to the wearer?
- If the virus is aerosol, then how does the mask stop it from escaping? And what then is the benefit of wearing a mask at all.
- What are the long term health affects of prolonged mask wearing? This is something that has not been studied.

Finally, mask wearing inhibits human connection that is vital for our jobs, vital for our society, and vital for us as a species. When you cover the face with a masks, it decreases the ability to build trust and connection with one another. This type of connection is incredibly important for people, but I would argue even more so for our kids. When I work with kids, that connection is a critical element to be able to teach well, and build relationships with my students. Masks do nothing but harm in our schools, and in our workplaces as a whole.

It is the American way to allow freedom of choice in doing what is best for ourselves and our society. I ask that our businesses give us the freedom to make medical decisions for ourselves, and not demand something that is so scientifically weak to begin with. I whole-heartedly support HB-1204