

I would like to submit my testimony in strong support of HB1323. The fear mongering and bullying has gone on for far too long. State after state, country after country, the evidence for masks does NOT stand up. They are not effective against this virus. And the damage they are doing to all of us is much worse. I've witnessed a major decline in society. People don't talk to each other anymore, people don't smile (and how could you tell, even if they were?), people aren't seeing each other. These things have a massive impact on a person's mental health, and thus their overall health. Decreased mental health equals a suppressed immune system. We've known this for decades. Staying inside and not getting enough Vitamin D, not exercising, not being exposed to everyday germs and bacteria, washing and sanitizing hands and surfaces too much...all of these things are well researched and known to suppress the immune system. Rather than spreading fear, how about we help people take control of their health in a positive way!

There is a large number of us that see this for what it is – an extreme overreach of power to exert control over the people. Unelected health officials should absolutely NOT have power to be making decisions for any of us. My tax dollars should absolutely NOT be used to fund propaganda that I strongly disagree with, and isn't statistically supported. 90+ year olds in MN have a 92.46% recovery rate, and overall average of 99.61% across all ages (Source: MN Dept of Health, 01/13/2021).

Furthermore, if the COVID-19 vaccine is really as magical and efficacious as we're supposed to believe, there shouldn't be any need to continue the masks and other mitigation measures now that our at-risk population is getting vaccinated. There is no need for a "new normal". We need to get back to actual, real normal.

This whole pandemic has destroyed the credibility of our government, media outlets, and health officials (if indeed, they had any to begin with). Approving HB1323 would be a small step towards regaining our trust.

Thank you,

Lisa Hovda