



JEFF GALLAHAN  
Assemblyman, 131<sup>st</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
Racing and Wagering  
Committee

COMMITTEES  
Aging  
Children and Families  
Local Governments  
Tourism, Parks, Arts and  
Sports Development

Governor Kathy Hochul  
Executive Chamber  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

We are writing to request that mandatory masking requirements for students not be implemented by your administration on a statewide basis. Masking decisions must be left up to local school districts to implement based on what they decide is best following an open decision-making process that includes local students and parents.

New York state prides itself on the quality of our schools, striving to be the best in the nation. However, we have fallen behind other states in returning to normal, especially in the classroom. Our students have suffered through two consecutive school years that have been uncertain due to the pandemic. Unfortunately, under the administration of your predecessor, this uncertainty was unduly heightened by quick decisions that never followed the science. This one-size-fits-all approach to New York schools put additional stress on our students and families during an already unprecedented time.

Our local school districts are well equipped to work within their communities to give our children a quality education and have been doing so for a very long time. The top-down approach from the Governor's office has not worked and must come to an end with the end of the previous administration.

New York is a vast and diverse state. You know, as well as we do, that the issues that New Yorkers face are different in every region and it has been more evident than ever in the case of the COVID-19 pandemic. Each school district is unique, and they must be allowed to have local control over their own schools. That is why we are asking you not to implement a statewide school mask mandate.

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue and listening to our concerns. We are hopeful that the long-standing history of local oversight of schools is maintained this year so our students can be provided with the best education they rightfully deserve.

Sincerely,

Jeff Gallahan  
Member of Assembly  
131<sup>st</sup> District



Jodi Giglio  
Member of Assembly  
District 2




Karl Brabenec  
Member of Assembly  
District 98



Jarett Gandolfo  
Member of Assembly  
District 7



Colin Schmitt  
Member of Assembly  
District 99



Michael Durso  
Member of Assembly  
District 9



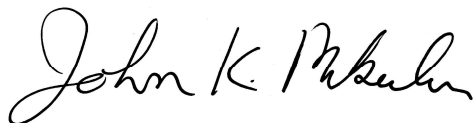
Chris Tague  
Member of Assembly  
District 102



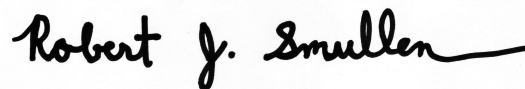
David G. McDonough  
Member of Assembly  
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District 107



John K. Mikulin  
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Robert Smullen  
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Mike Lawler  
Member of Assembly  
District 97



John Salka  
Member of Assembly  
District 121



Joe Angelino  
Member of Assembly  
District 122



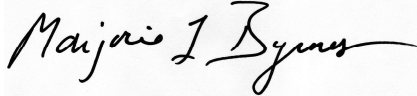
Michael J. Norris  
Member of Assembly  
District 144



John Lemondes  
Member of Assembly  
District 126



Andy Goodell  
Member of Assembly  
District 150



Marjorie Byrnes  
Member of Assembly  
District 133