



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Travaris L. McCurdy

District 46

District Office:

1803 Park Center Drive- Suite 220
Orlando, FL 32835
(407) 445.5254

Tallahassee Office:

1302 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 717-5046

Travaris.McCurdy@myfloridahouse.gov

August 12, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
NW Washington, D.C. 20600

Dear President Biden,

Thank you and First Lady Jill Biden for your service to our country, a monumental commitment to the American people and the healing of a nation deeply divided.

I write to you today from the throes of that division. In my beloved state of Florida, we face an unprecedented state of emergency as Covid-19 cases soar to new levels, outpacing medical facilities and personnel and leaving too many vulnerable to the dreaded complications of the disease and scarcity of treatment for other healthcare emergencies.

We are in crisis. It did not have to be this way. There are proactive mitigation measures that could have been deployed to stem the out-of-control infection rate. But, sadly, politics has overridden science and common sense, leaving Floridians to the mercy of one man's ruthless national political agenda.

Nowhere is that more apparent than in our school districts throughout the state. As doors swing open to a new school year, educators have been cowed by a Governor and his administration's banishment of mask mandates endorsed by the scientific community as effective prevention measures. Those bold enough to buck the Governor are now threatened with loss of school funding, including their salaries - effectively defunding public education under the guise of so-called "freedom." There is no "freedom" in illness. There is no "freedom" when the welfare and health of our fellow citizens are held under constant threat to serve someone's personal ambitions.

Committees: Education & Employment Committee, Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee, Government Operations Subcommittee, Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee



I write to you as a personal appeal for emergency help for the citizens of Florida. Due to the incompetent and failed leadership of our state's executive branch, the federal government must step in to override any attempts of retribution aimed at local school districts seeking to safeguard our children by mandating masks in Florida public schools.

Area superintendents, elected school board members, and communities at large across the state of Florida cannot afford to leave the lives of our children, many of whom aren't eligible to be vaccinated at this time, to be used as pawns in this game of political chicken being played by our current Governor, yes, "Governor Who." I am pleading for the federal government to take swift action for the following:

1. Protect our students and require masks
2. Protect defunding of local school boards
3. Protect "home rule." authority

As a state Representative, I am disappointed that our Governor's decision to run for higher office has superseded basic human compassion, and his ability to prioritize and deliver what our state needs.

As a father penning this letter watching my three-year-old daughter, joining countless other fathers and mothers similarly watching their own children, I urge you to use your power as President to ensure and enact proper public health measures for the safety of every child in Florida.

Father to Father-

Respectfully Submitted,

Travaris L. McCurdy

Florida House of Representatives,
District 46