

**MIKE REGAN**  
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Senate of Pennsylvania

**COMMITTEES**

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JUDICIARY

RULES & EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

August 23, 2021

Dear School Superintendents and Board Presidents:

As fellow elected officials, we are certain you have heard from just as many, if not more, constituents as we have pleading that you maintain voluntary masking for the 2021-2022 school year.

We appreciate the pressure you have been under and know you want to do what is in the best interest of the children of your school district. As parents, we share your concern for all children. The COVID-19 pandemic has had far-reaching public policy effects on our community, and we empathize with your desire to do the right thing for the health and safety of our children.

We are firm believers that local control is best, and part of local control is making decisions based on what parents and students of the district want and need – not what the teachers' union wants.

The parents we have heard from simply want a choice – not a mandate. They are the ones who have seen the direct impact that last school year and mandated masks had on their children. And they are trying to tell you that a repeat of last year could actually be what proves harmful to their children's health and well-being – not COVID.

In keeping with the true American spirit, parents should be the ones to decide how they address this. They should be allowed to choose what is best for their child. Those that believe masks are necessary can themselves, have their child wear a mask. And those that believe masks are unnecessary, or damaging physically or mentally, or are simply a petri dish that serve no purpose but to further the spread of germs, then they can opt to send their children to school without masks.

The same goes for teachers – they too can choose to wear a mask if they feel it is best.

Further, if the school board is concerned about ramifications of local decisions, on August 6, 2021, Pennsylvania Secretary of Education [Noe Ortega told Senator Regan directly in a Senate hearing](#) that a district's funding would not be impacted by decisions at the local level. Governor Tom Wolf also recently stated that there would be no statewide mask mandate.

Again, we believe in local control, so we respect that this decision ultimately lies with the school board and not with us. We simply are conveying the views of our constituents who have contacted us seeking assistance in being heard by their school boards as they desperately look to send their children back to school without a mask mandate.

As your elected representatives to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we are here as a resource for you and your school district. We have both worked tirelessly to make your schools safer for all our children and have supported record funding levels for public education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Mike Regan  
Senator, 31<sup>st</sup> District



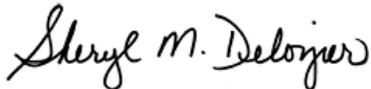
Judy Ward  
Senator, 30<sup>th</sup> District



Greg Rothman  
Representative, 87<sup>th</sup> District



Torren Ecker  
Representative, 193<sup>rd</sup> District



Sheryl Delozier  
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Seth Grove  
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Dawn Keefer  
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Barb Gleim  
Representative, 199<sup>th</sup> District