



MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE

August 17, 2021

Lisa Stefanovsky, MEd  
Administrative Health Officer  
Ottawa County Health Department  
12220 Fillmore Street  
West Olive, MI 49460

Via E-mail and U.S. Postal Service

Dear Ms. Stefanovsky,

We are writing on behalf of the dozens of Ottawa County residents who have collectively contacted our offices to share their concerns about the potential for your Department to unilaterally mandate the wearing of masks, quarantines of students and other measures in our schools to address Covid-19.

As you are likely aware, the Michigan Legislature has appropriated billions of dollars over the past 16 months to address the impacts Covid-19 has had on our communities. A substantial amount of this has been directed to our schools to address the significant learning loss of many of our youngest citizens as a result of last school year's decision making by both the state Executive Branch and local school districts. It seems that after more than a year and a half of study and data on Covid-19, much is known about how this virus impacts our children. Couple this with the available vaccines for older students, teachers, parents and grandparents, the role of any government agency should be minimized to the greatest extent, in exchange for allowing families to make the best decisions for their school-aged children.

We are urging you to resist instituting any mandates from your office. We ask, instead, that you leave the decisions that need to be made with local school officials in consultation with parents in those districts and your department. As legislators, we have focused on getting decision making at the level that is closest to the people, and we ask you to follow this same philosophy as it relates to the education of our kids.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to be the voice for many of Ottawa County's parents and kids.

Sincerely,

Roger Victory  
State Senator  
30<sup>th</sup> District

Luke Meerman  
State Representative  
88<sup>th</sup> District

Brad Slagh  
State Representative  
90<sup>th</sup> District