

September 29, 2021-

To: Members of the Tennessee Legislature
RE: Civil Rights Violation in Williamson County Schools

My name is Kristin McKinney and I am the mom of two girls that attend Williamson County Schools. I am also one of four families that has filed a lawsuit against Williamson County Schools and the individual Board members that have voted to implement masks in our county.

As a parent, my job is to protect my children and keep them safe. The evidence overwhelmingly shows that wearing masks is HARMFUL. If there is any question about this, **please study [these 200 pages](#) of science from Stephen Petty, an industrial hygienist whose expertise is in the use of PPE.**

Last year, I removed my children from Williamson County Schools to protect them from the harmful effects of wearing masks. I was excited to re-enroll them this year when masks were not being required. As you know, after the first (half) day of school, masks were re-implemented and only Medical and Religious exemptions are accepted to date.

At no point have I signed an opt-out or an exemption and I have not sent my children to school wearing a mask.

On Tuesday, September 28, 2021, I was notified by the principal at our school that I would need to submit an exemption form or my children would have to wear a mask. I replied that I would do neither of these things. In response, I was informed that after the first violation (not wearing a mask and no exemption) **my children would be scheduled for after school detention. After a second violation, they would be sent to In School Suspension (ISS) where they would be every school day until they wear a mask or I sign an exemption form.**

The segregation of my children from the classroom is a violation of their civil rights. On an educational level, my children being placed in ISS results in a **loss of learning** – they will be completing their work online only with little to no instruction and will not have access to their specials classes. At lunch time, they will be taken to the cafeteria before everyone else and then returned to isolation to eat lunch despite the fact that all of the other students will be eating in the cafeteria without masks. Developmentally, **they are being isolated from their peers** during a critical period of social and emotional development.

I have written to many of you (most of you) over the last several months – petitioning and urgently begging for a special session to end this overreach of the school board and protect the rights of parents. I cannot urge you strongly enough.

PLEASE HELP! PLEASE. Come together in a special session. It is the right thing to do.

In the meantime, I and my children are running out of options and beginning Friday, September 29, 2021, my children will be in ISS until someone stands up and says “enough is enough.” There is no reason that my children, not wearing a mask, are any more of a threat than the hundreds of other children at our school that are not wearing a mask but have a piece of paper signed saying they are free to roam.

The delay in action is causing real harm and preventing my children from receiving the education my tax dollars pay for. The delay in action is causing my children to be segregated and isolated during a critical time of social development in their lives. You can change this. I urge you to stand up.

For Freedom –



Kristin McKinney | benton.kristin@gmail.com