

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20515

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Muriel E. Bowser  
Mayor, District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Bowser,

It has come to our attention that the District of Columbia (D.C.) is requiring all students over the age of 12 to get a COVID-19 vaccine to attend school starting on January 3, 2023.<sup>1</sup> The vaccine requirement was initially set to begin 20 days after the school year started.<sup>2</sup> However, failing to get rid of the mandate is unconstitutional and will have a devastating impact on the education of D.C.'s youth.

Tragically, your decision will have a disproportionate impact on lower-income students, minorities, and those who are religiously observant. For example, according to D.C. city data, over 40% of black students ages 12-17 have not received a COVID-19 vaccine.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, the parents of poor students often do not have the opportunity to pay for private schools, and in many cases are unable to homeschool their children due to the need to also provide financial support for their families. To make matters worse, at a recent press conference, you admitted there are no alternative options for students who cannot attend school due to the mandate.<sup>4</sup>

If this mandate stays in place, you will be robbing thousands of children of the right to receive a proper education. Students would be forced to withdraw from school during the middle of the year, which would cause irreparable harm. Besides the obvious educational benefits, school provides many students with needed structure and a sense of purpose. Additionally, you are stripping these children of their bodily autonomy by forcing them to take an experimental vaccine, of which the long-term side effects we do not know, in order to receive an education. The decision of whether to vaccinate a child with this MRNA technology should be made by parents in consultation with their doctors, not politicians and government bureaucrats.

As you should know, children are at minimal risk of death or severe illness after contracting COVID-19. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data, children ages 5-18 make up less than 1/1000 of the total deaths from COVID-19.<sup>5</sup> The vast majority of children who died or became severely ill after contracting COVID-19 had numerous underlying conditions or comorbidities. Our public health establishment lied about the impact COVID-19 had on healthy children to gain more power and control

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<sup>1</sup> <https://dcist.com/story/22/08/26/dc-pushes-student-vaccine-enforcement-date/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://osse.dc.gov/page/district-columbia-immunization-attendance-policy>

<sup>3</sup> <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/data/vaccination>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.dailysignal.com/2022/08/25/dc-mayor-says-no-virtual-learning-giving-unvaccinated-black-teens-zero-alternative-options/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://data.cdc.gov/widgets/nr4s-juj3?mobile\\_redirect=true](https://data.cdc.gov/widgets/nr4s-juj3?mobile_redirect=true)

over our lives. Moreover, a large percentage of children have already tested positive for COVID-19 and have natural immunity, which provides better protection against reinfection than multiple vaccines.<sup>6</sup>

Since the beginning of COVID-19, your policies have been a complete failure. D.C. public schools were some of the last in the county to get rid of their mask requirement.<sup>7</sup> This is despite the fact there has been no evidence that wearing masks reduces transmission in children. Additionally, evidence has shown that masks hinder cognitive development among young children. Another concerning fact is that wearing masks for an extended period can cause a significant reduction in a person's blood oxygen level.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, risks of myocarditis and pericarditis are of particular concern for young children with these vaccines. Would the city of Washington, D.C. be willing to take legal responsibility should these students experience any harmful, life-altering side-effects as a result of this mandate?

Keep in mind that a year ago, we were assured that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was safe and should be taken. Now Johnson & Johnson is no longer even making it despite the massive profits that it yielded, as more reports of harm done have arisen. Those the vaccines have harmed have no remedy, no recourse. We were told by our federal government experts that the vaccines were better than natural immunity derived from having the disease. Now the scientific tide has turned on that as well.

Somehow, despite all the suffering your policies have caused residents of D.C., your life has been largely unimpacted. Most notably, in 2021, just hours before your mask mandate for the city went into effect, you were seen partying with comedian Dave Chapelle, maskless.<sup>9</sup> Unfortunately, the students do not have the luxury of creating their own unscientific rules and then hypocritically ignoring them. We hope that if you do not end this edict, the courts will strike down your mandate like the other you have previously implemented.<sup>10</sup> This mandate is unconstitutional because there is no authority in the U.S. Constitution to force individuals to violate their consciences.

Forcing families to choose between an experimental shot and an education for their children is not something anyone would ever expect to see in a supposedly free society. This tyrannical decision to place these children in such a position is at its best, the result of an egomaniacal power trip, and at its worst, diabolical and downright evil. We urge you to reverse course and end this outrageous vaccine mandate. If you are unwilling, Congress should immediately have legislative hearings on repealing the Home Rule Act.

Sincerely,



Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress

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<sup>6</sup> <https://katv.com/news/nation-world/new-study-indicates-natural-immunity-offers-greater-protection-from-covid-19-than-vaccines-new-england-journal-medicine-coronavirus-hybrid>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/03/11/dc-public-schools-lift-mask-mandate-many-charters-keep-requirement-now/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d49e2b300d396000117f616/t/60f72b2a5f290a3648b28212/1626811183089/Long+Term+use+of+facemasks+are+harmful.+without+JAMA+study.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/mayor-muriel-bowser-party-mask-mandate>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2022/08/25/dc-coronavirus-vaccine-mandate-workers/>

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