

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.166

Reps. LaFave, Markkanen, Steven Johnson, Rendon, O'Malley, Outman, Borton, Damoose, Reilly, Calley, Allor, Maddock, Carra and Meerman offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the prosecuting attorneys in Dickinson
2 and Iron counties to refuse to enforce the Dickinson-Iron District
3 Health Department mask order.

4 Whereas, On September 16, 2021, the Dickinson-Iron District
5 Health Department Health Officer, Daren Deyaert, issued an
6 Emergency Order for Control and Prevention of COVID-19 Transmission
7 in Educational Settings within Dickinson and Iron Counties,
8 Michigan. The order took effect September 20, 2021, and remains in
9 effect until six weeks past the date the COVID-19 vaccine is
10 authorized and available to persons aged five to eleven years old,
11 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention transmission levels

1 reach "Low" in the counties, or until further notice from the
2 Health Officer; and

3 Whereas, The order requires that, within educational
4 institutions, children in kindergarten through grade six must
5 consistently and properly wear a facial mask covering both nose and
6 mouth while inside any enclosed building or structure of the
7 institution. The order also requires all persons, regardless of
8 vaccination status, providing service to any child in kindergarten
9 through grade six to properly and consistently wear a face mask
10 while inside any enclosed building or structure of the institution;
11 and

12 Whereas, There is no justification for a sweeping mask mandate
13 that takes personal safety decisions out of the hands of children
14 and their parents. COVID-19 poses a lower risk to children, and
15 adults have access to a vaccine that dramatically reduces the risk
16 of hospitalization and death; and

17 Whereas, The people of Dickinson and Iron counties do not
18 support a mask mandate in educational settings. Acting to impose
19 such a mandate against the public will does not serve to protect
20 the health of the community and will be detrimental to the learning
21 process; and

22 Whereas, Instituting a mask mandate that does little to
23 protect the health of the public and will lead to significant
24 problems in educational settings is not consistent with the role of
25 a local health officer; and

26 Whereas, County prosecuting attorneys have a duty to enforce
27 the law in a manner that is consistent with public safety.
28 Enforcing the mask mandate would divert resources away from more
29 pressing issues and would do nothing to protect the people of

1 Dickinson and Iron counties; now, therefore, be it

2 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
3 prosecuting attorneys in Dickinson and Iron counties to refuse to
4 enforce the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department mask order;
5 and be it further

6 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
7 Dickinson County and Iron County prosecuting attorneys.