



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Rep. Elijah Behnke (608) 266-2343

Rep. Behnke: No Mask Mandate in Schools

MADISON - State Representative Elijah Behnke (R-Oconto) issued the following statement regarding local school districts considering requiring students to wear masks in the upcoming 2021-22 school year:

“We’ve had over a year to observe the facts and effects of COVID-19. It is sadly here to stay, but thankfully, it does not affect school-age children in the same way it affects the elderly and the vulnerable. This isn’t March 2020, we know so much more now than we did then.”

“According to statistics from the WI Department of Health Services, Wisconsin children under 19 have an infinitesimally small chance of dying due to COVID-19.”

“We’re going to have a lost generation of young individuals if we don’t change course. It is known that children learn better together, in-person, among their peers.”

“Beyond that, we’re robbing our children of meaningful social interaction when we require them to have masks covering their faces all day. This is severely hindering their ability to develop and understand critical nonverbal communication with their peers.”

“While the full mental health toll of our reaction to COVID-19 is not yet calculated, all signs point to it already being catastrophic. We need to stop the damage now. Politics cannot get in the way of putting the overall well-being of our children first.”

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The 89th Assembly District includes portions of Brown, Marinette, and Oconto counties.