



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
Assembly Information Memorandum

No. AIM 171-2021

Meeting Date: October 12, 2021

Municipal Clerk's Office

Accepted

Date: **October 12, 2021**

From: CHAIR

**Subject: PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR SEPTEMBER 28, OCTOBER 7
SPECIAL, AND OCTOBER 12, 2021 MEETINGS**

Because of the federal, state, and local health department guidance and emergency measures related to COVID-19, community members have been encouraged to provide written testimony regarding agenda items through an online form.

Comments for the September 28, 2021 meeting received at www.muni.org/testimony by 5:00 p.m. on September 23, 2021, prior to the agenda addendum deadline, were provided in AIM 153-2021 as part of the September 28, 2021 Assembly meeting packet.

Comments for the Regular Meeting of September 28 (continued to September 29, September 30, October 4 and October 5), the Special Meeting of October 7 and Regular Meeting of October 12 received at www.muni.org/testimony between 5:01 p.m. on September 23, 2021 and 5:00 p.m. on October 7, 2021 are attached for your review.

Assembly Members also receive this testimony via email at the time it is submitted.

Prepared by: Jennifer Veneklasen, Deputy Clerk
Approved by: Barbara A. Jones, Municipal Clerk
Respectfully submitted: Suzanne LaFrance, Chair

The 762 pages of PDF of public testimony is not being printed. It is provided online and has been sent to each Assembly member.

Name: Mary Cavalier

Date/Time Submitted: 9/23/2021 5:18:21 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO no. 2012.92

Testimony: Yes on Mask mandates! |T|Yes on AO no. 2021. 91| |Save lives!!!!

Name: Sean Walsh

Date/Time Submitted: 9/23/2021 5:49:35 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO no. 2021-91

Testimony: This proposed ordinance along with other recent actions by the assembly does nothing to better the lives of Anchorage residents and taxpayers but is simply a power grab to lessen the authority of the Mayor's Office. I expect any member with a conscience to vote against it. Already your actions have closed small businesses and deteriorated the quality of life in Anchorage. Instead of focusing on unenforceable dictates that will further divide us please turn your attention to reducing opulent and property crime, lowering taxes, and reopening the Sullivan so our newest hockey team will have a home.

Name: Carla Hunley

Date/Time Submitted: 9/23/2021 6:37:47 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mandates/in per son voting

Testimony: Please do not put into place mandates that are not your responsibility to say what is best for my health! For mask mandates.. our kids should not be in masks at school all day! Let's keep distance and wash hands but science shows the masks do not work like you say they do.. vax... it is not your job to say what I do to my body!! It is science that shows herd immunity is far better and science has shown the risks of the vax! My body... my choice!

Name: Dia Matteson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/23/2021 6:56:25 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14. L. AO 2021-91

Testimony: To the Chair and Assembly, | My name is Dia Matteson, I am a lifelong resident of Anchorage, Alaska and currently reside off of Rabbit Creek. I am writing to express my opposition to AO 2021.92. The assembly has no authority on this matter and should allow the public to make their own personal health decisions. | It is no surprise you placed this item at the very bottom of the agenda, I would assume to deter public testimony. If you, as you claim, have more support than opposition, then I would suspect you would not have to use tactics like this. It is clear the public does not support this and it is clear that they are quite capable of making these decisions. You will see many people wearing masks in areas they feel they need to and we have a very high percentage of the population that is vaccinated. | You are not legally authorized to require businesses to deny entry to citizens or services to them based on your arbitrary and always changing mandates. | Who determined that 50 new cases in 7 days in 100,000 was the magic number? Didn't we see in the past that the data is not all submitted in a timely manner which may delay reporting and also cause spikes in reporting when it is gathered and reported at once rather than real time? We have seen that the virus is not going away, like most viruses, so why do we think we can control it after almost 2 years of example after example of these measures not working all over the US and the world. | Another area that is not discussed in this ordinance is enforcement. Have we been paying the ""enforcers"" you hired the last round to sit around waiting for another mandate or in this case ordinance to enforce? What is the management of this new policy going to cost? | I believe that you have council that should be providing advice on what is legal and within the municipal code. However, we have seen over the last year and a half the loose interpretation of that language. Specifically, the special election that was creatively avoided prolonging the reign of an unelected mayor. | I will not waste my energy arguing the politics of your ""science"" and the various factors that are conveniently forgotten when discussing hospital capacity. You have a choice with this ordinance, you can let it fail and close the issue or you can again waste a massive amount of our tax payer money to fight this battle in court, as it seems destined to end up there. | | Sincerely, | Dia Matteson |

Name: Kenneth McCormick

Date/Time Submitted: 9/23/2021 7:00:03 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 mask mandate

Testimony: I oppose the mask mandate. Cameron and Austin I am a super voter in your district.

Name: Dia Matteson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/23/2021 7:05:26 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14. A AO 2021-92

Testimony: To The Chair and Assembly, | I am writing to provide testimony against the proposed changes to the Municipal Code for the Mayor's ability to appoint acting positions before a confirmation hearing can occur. This will create a massive bottle neck in the management of our city every time we have a new mayor elected. I find this interesting as you would assume if a candidate of your choosing was elected would you not want them to get to work as soon as possible? This ordinance would create a major disruption in an already demanding process of transitioning to a new administration. Let's not slow progress. | | Sincerely, | Dia Matteson |

Name: Claudia Pace

Date/Time Submitted: 9/23/2021 8:16:39 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: General public hearing audience Agenda 14?

Testimony: Hello, I am addressing you, members of the Assembly to express my complete frustration with a group of highly educated or at least well informed people in a position of power to make a difference by doing what's right. In this case, your lack of caring and complete selfish behavior by not wanting to upset donors or your base, is causing many to loose love ones, leaving young children without parents, grandparents, spouses, siblings, etc. |The data and long assessment of what contributes to this pandemic's casualties |are very clear, not wearing MASKS and not being vaccinated are beyond doubt the ones. |To call people's individual rights to be more important than the community as a whole is complete bullocks, you know it and so do we. |During WWII people were ask to sacrifice for the greater good, and people complied. |Why? Because their leaders demanded it and they understood that there was a greater risk to our country than loosing our individual rights. |What's even more upsetting is that smart people are tossing aside their understanding of science, basic microbiology, and epidemiology for political rhetoric and gain. It's criminal, in my opinion, to sacrifice lives for such selfish and unconscionable reasons. |As you are very well aware there are health care workers who refuse to get vaccinated and do not wear a mask outside their job. In my opinion these people should not be working. They are exposing those who they are caring for and their co workers. |I am a nurse, and if I wanted to work I had to submit to a few added vaccinations not just for my protection but for those who I am suppose to care for. Why is this vaccine different? Why isn't there at least a mandate to wear masks? |How you can justify your complete indifference and sleep at night it's beyond me. |We have the highest per capita percentage in the country with Covid right now, you all should very proud. |Choices have consequences, to sit there and not do what's right for your fellow human being is your choice. |The people who are dying due to your lack on action it's on your conscience and no praying will wash it away. |Shame on all of you, we are living in United States of America, not in a third world country who lacks education, and resources. |It isn't too late to do what's right, to call a mandate to wear masks. I can only hope that you will act now, because the clock is ticking for all of us. |May your conscience and morality be stronger than your selfishness for political gains, because I doubt it's ignorance. |Thank you and goodnight.

Name: Melissa B

Date/Time Submitted: 9/23/2021 9:00:22 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Anchorage's proposed mask mandate, proposal 2021-91

Testimony: As a mother, a nurse working with immunocompromised patients and a member of this community, I explore you all to seriously consider the impact that COVID has had on our community. You all have a responsibility to the health and public safety of this community. No ones health or safety are jeopardized by the requirement of one simple piece of fabric that can significantly limit the spread of this virus. Our individual freedoms come with responsibilities to protect our community, no one's personal freedoms should over-ride the safety and health of others. In turn those screaming freedom are in fact stealing the freedom of others to breath safely and denying our rights to basic necessities such as emergency care. |Science has proven that masks prevent the spread of COVID. I ask you to consider if you were lying on an operating table for surgery, would you let the doctors and nurses performing your surgery do so without masks? |Please protect our community by doing more than being reactive to the situation at hand.You have the power to slow the spread and make this more manageable for our health care community.

Name: Aliz Zimmermann

Date/Time Submitted: 9/23/2021 10:02:04 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: Dear Anchorage Assembly, | | My name is Aliz Zimmermann, I am a resident of Anchorage for over 13 years. I strongly oppose the enforcement of masks for all the people to wear masks in indoor (or outdoor) setting. I do not get the science behind the mask theory, when in practicality the scientific vaccine is not protecting people from getting covid 19 and/or variants of corona virus. Then a piece of rag will be a better option?? | By the way, I work in F&B (Food and Beverage) industry and behold!!! only the staff is wearing masks...so who's protecting who? Oh, yeah..virus takes a break and becomes un-contagious while, eating, drinking or scratching an itch..Hallelujah! | On the other hand, forcing masks on children over 2 yrs of age..I'm extremely curious what's next on yr beloved agenda? | I lived thru communism and hardship and I learned to read between the lines. When choice is not an option that is called totalitarianism. So please, have common sense. | | I love Alaska and Alaskans, please make it a place where everyone is treated as a human being. | | Sincerely, | A. Zimmermann | |

Name: Lindsay Hufford Gatch

Date/Time Submitted: 9/23/2021 10:07:00 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: Dear Assembly members, | |I'd like to ask you to reconsider your recent action of imposing a mask ordinance in our city. Telling businesses who they can or can't allow in their businesses violates the Alaskan Constitution and promotes discrimination. | |This kind of mandate also hurts our Alaskan economy, as there are many, many residents who cannot wear masks (for some folks they cause anxiety attacks because of the reduced oxygen, and others, like those with asthma can't breathe). And do you know what happens when Alaskans can't shop in person? They go online, and that money is gone from our local economy. | |Mask-wearing should be an option, like healthy eating or exercise, that's a decision left up to each individual person. | |Please stop overstepping your powers and remember that you're here to serve the good people of Anchorage. And we are asking that you respect our wishes and rights. | |We will not comply with your tyranny.

Name: Alison McCarrey

Date/Time Submitted: 9/23/2021 11:05:34 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91, page 9.

Testimony: I am a lifelong Anchorage resident extremely concerned about our high covid rates and the (impending? current?) collapse of our health care system. Masks are proven to slow the spread of covid in the community and a community indoor mask mandate was very effective in the city last year. I care about our small businesses and restaurants and want them to stay open; a mask mandate is the way to achieve that goal and encourage people to spend money in the community. || I am also an educator in the Anchorage School District, employed here since 2004. I desperately want schools to stay open; we all did our best last year, but Zoom school was less than ideal even with everyone involved trying as hard as they could. A mask mandate in schools has been effective in slowing spread in schools, but we can only stay open if the community spread is under control, particularly with younger students yet unable to be vaccinated. A community indoor mask mandate helps school stay open by quashing the spread outside of schools. || I am, lastly, the wife of an emergency room doctor. Every hospital-based health care professional I know- including my husband, who works at a small hospital on the Kenai peninsula and has been unable to transfer higher-needs patients to larger hospitals to provide optimal care of late- is stressed to the brink, depressed about the state of unchecked/preventable disease, and terrified for the state. One percent of the state's population tested positive for covid *in the last week.* To protect the state's health care system, Anchorage needs to enact an indoor mask mandate.

Name: Bryce Shepherd

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 5:36:00 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: As the first time around it should be a personal choice. You have no authority to require anyone wear a mask in public and you are overstepping your bounds once again. The people have let their voice be heard by electing Bronson and now you are going against the majority of the people by try to establish this crooked way of pushing your agenda and go around our newly elected mayor and we the people will all remember this and add it to the already growing list of reasons you snakes will need voted out very soon if not hopefully sooner than your re-election b8:

Name: Gary Steinfort

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 5:50:15 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: ordinance 2021-91 public health and safety measures for the COVID-19 pandemic

Testimony: Gary Steinfort resident of Eagle River. I urgently request that you vote to approve the ordinance regarding public health and safety measures for the COVID-19 pandemic. It is long past time for a COVID infection/case load threshold based mask mandate to be active. Our Governor and Mayor have fail to protect our anchorage citizens from the spread of COVID-19. As leaders public safety must be their number one priority. Failing to plan an effective for a way to slow and stop the spread of Covid-19 in our city is PLANNING TO FAIL and we are clearly failing. Being #1 in the nation for the spread of COVID-19 is the worst thing that can happen for or state. This will clearly kill our tourist economy and our residents. Also as the largest city in Alaska we are a super spread location for the whole state. We must take immediate action activate a threshold based mask mandate as one of many actions that must be implemented to safe the lives of or residents. You MUST APPROVE this ordinance now.

Name: Dawn Wroblewski

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 7:12:04 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Assembly overriding mayor

Testimony: I am writing as a business person in anchorage I feel the assembly is not listening to the people. You have not represented us since the beginning of covid. I do not support you trying to override Bronson please listen to us and let him do his job. I have witnessed first hand the mess we have with housing the homeless in these hotels unattended.please let's work together to make our streets safe again and get Anchorage back to the place we love.. thank you for your time.

Name: Lisa Oakley

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 7:37:00 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: Please vote for a city wide mask mandate! Show the leadership our current mayor lacks and saves lives. Controlling the virus is the only way we can return to a full economy. Public health should trump all.

Name: Jenny Miller

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 8:17:21 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: AO 2021-91 is a critical first step in improving health metrics and outcomes for Anchorage residents, including children as-yet ineligible for vaccine protections, immune compromised residents, frontline healthcare and childcare workers, and all others whose health is increasingly endangered by the negligent lack of leadership on this issue by Mayor Bronson and Governor Dunleavy. | Preventing the transmission of COVID is critical to saving lives and livelihoods. Science, and the expert advice of scientists like those at DHSS, the CDC, and the local leaders of our hospitals must guide decision-making in matters of public health. | I strongly support AO 2021-91, and urge the Assembly to implement its directives as soon as possible. | Thank you for your consideration, | Jenny

Name: Jeffrey Clark

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 9:41:02 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: A muni mask mandate

Testimony: I oppose a mask mandate and I am a teacher with ASD. I have had no mask on since I arrived here from California on June 10, 2020 and I have been fine. I believe this is a political agenda to make others bend at the knee. I also feel that with research you have phenomenal scientist/doctors who say mask are not needed and phenomenal scientist/doctors who say mask are needed. I think for every individual we have a right and that is to choose for yourself to wear a mask or not. If people don't feel comfortable coming into the public with non-mask wearing individuals then they should not. There are plenty of curbside pickups, fast food place that have drive throughs or carry outs. I will continue to be outside and around people who do not wear masks. I am vaccinated, but I am not scared of my American brothers and sisters who have rights to not wear a mask and who do not get vaccinated. I will continue to support not wearing a mask in the municipality of Anchorage.

Name: Sarah Fineman

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 11:25:15 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91, page 9

Testimony: Assembly, | | Thank you for listening. The Anchorage community is in the throes of a global pandemic. Our health care workers are crying out, our hospitals are full. Our community is suffering. Please do the right thing and institute a mask mandate immediately. We've given the community the chance to ""do the right thing."" They have not. We need a mask mandate to help slow the spread of the Delta variant. As an educator of young children who cannot be vaccinated, I implore you to create a mask mandate immediately. | | Thank you, | | Sarah Fineman

Name: Brittany Bauman

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 11:33:30 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: The mask mandate

Testimony: Hello Assembly! || Thanks for your hard work. Vote for a mask mandate. We need a mandate for large events and all indoor places. || This will help us stop the spread of Covid and create a safer Anchorage. || Thanks, || Brittany Bauman | ASD Teacher

Name: Sara Jokela

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 11:37:51 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Dear Members, | | I am a born and raised, invested and productive, Anchorage resident. In no other time in my life have I felt so weary to be an Anchorage resident. I am weary of the current political climate. I am weary from the legislative body continuing to have disrespect for the freedom I have as an adult. I am weary of hearing how incompetent and stupid I am. In no other time as a citizen of Earth has the political agenda sought to convince me that I can't and don't make intelligent, autonomous, and informed decisions based on my own personal needs. I am weary, because I know with the current Assembly make up, my opinion as a citizen will be largely shut down and ignored. | | I am vehemently opposed to a universal mask mandate. I find them incredibly offensive to freedom. I find them medically impossible for my family. I find them an overreach of government. | | I believe in everyone's right to choose to wear them or not. I believe a business should be able to decide. I believe these mandates, and the majority of the Assembly, are discriminatory and abusive to the public. Yes, allowing and mandating masks is discriminatory and is anti-inclusive. They are hypocritical for many of you who claim inclusivity as a core value. If you can not include my choice in society based on what you would like to happen or value, then yes, you are hypocrites. | | I will fight for my freedom until the day I die. I hope and pray that as you consider moving forward with this AO 2021-91, you would hold it up against the rights that you value. I hope that you would imagine a world where the core of who you are is stripped away. I would hope that you would begin to imagine a world where your choices are now outlawed, and how life would change, for many of the things you hold precious and dear. | | This is not just an issue of case counts, political power, or personal conviction. What you seek to do is circumvent the checks and balances system and force your ideology onto the masses. You are sliding down a slippery slope. The future of the Constitution and free society is at risk.

Name: Grace Green

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 11:45:41 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: I have already sent in my thoughts via email. Some have already responded, and I am fully confident that your body will override the mayor and this ordinance will pass with your usual 8 votes and round-and-round we go in usual fashion. However.... | | The CDC's ""guidance"" changes significantly all the time. It is not practical to keep introducing ordinances or mandates in line with this. People are well aware of any and all measures they can take to protect themselves from COVID19. Government in all forms needs to back off of this. The more the government keeps pushing these measures, the more it makes people not want to do them. By pushing and enforcing things on people, you are driving them the opposite direction. The government keeps saying ""do the right thing"", but what is right for you might not be for everyone. I still have a bad taste from hearing Berkowitz administration saying to do the right thing, when he didn't even have the decency to know it's not right to text butt pics to someone who isn't your wife. | | How many patients of those people waiting for the ER were covid related? Why is Regional hospital hiring doctors and nurses from out to state, rather than Alaskans? Why did the Assembly waste money on bad investment deals such as real estate or sending out hot chocolate to muni workers last year when they could have used this money to help bolster the medical workforce? | | If everyone keeps claiming we are in crisis, but you just keep doing the same thing... it obviously isn't helping the crisis if this is year two and things are the same, if not worse. You can't just stay in this state of covid over everything. You were supposed to be working on something this entire time to get us out of this. What have you done differently? Nothing but blame everyone else. Covid isn't going away. Are you proposing we wear masks forever? Cause I'm not going to do that. I stopped wearing masks after getting vaccinated (that was the point right?!). And I never want to wear one ever again, solely because your body made it a game of power. I'm not interested in being a pawn. My power is my own choice, and you can't have that anymore. | | Regarding COVID throughout ASD -- yes, it's going to happen. How many of those kids actually tested positive and how many were told to stay home just because of a close contact? I know a child that wasn't even tested, but because the mother tested positive.. the doctor told her to ""assume the child was positive"" without being tested. Causing unnecessary quarantining of other families, because the child was never even tested only ""presumed"" positive. These guidelines make no sense. They cause disruption for learning, parents work schedules and child care. Parents are going to, and already have started lying about when their children have a runny nose or temperature because they cannot afford to stay home for weeks on end because any symptom is considered COVID. | | Interesting that you say that two weeks ago hospitals are not allowing more than one child with a parent. I took both my boys with me to a check-up last week, and that wasn't the case. While it is true that most people in the hospital that end up on ventilators or needing intensive care are vaccinated, many also have underlying health conditions. I got the vaccine, with hesitation because of feeling pressured into it. I was sicker than I have ever been with that 2nd Pfizer dose. I had a headache and body aches for a week after the vaccine. It has also changed my my period cycle. There is no reasoning or prediction with it. It comes and goes at random, often for 11 days straight of heavy bleeding. I can't even leave the house because of it some days. For context, since you think you are health experts -- that's filling up a super jumbo tampon AND a pad in less than 2 hours FOR DAYS. Yes, I'm angry about it because I don't have time for this. I don't need to be worrying that it's going to come out of nowhere while I""m out and about. This is happening to many women, but ohhh thank goodness they MIGHT not get covid. I will NEVER get a booster shot because of this. This is very

concerning to us, because we are not done growing our family but it is not easy to get pregnant if you have an irregular cycle. || I believe in modern medicine. I believe in vaccines in general. But with COVID19 vaccines, it has become politicized. I don't trust it, because I don't trust you or the federal government. The more you push it, the more I distrust. This push is making more and more people distrust vaccines in general, so now diseases such as measles and polio will probably come back because of people being afraid. You have a role in this. The government did this. The media did this. But the American people are being blamed for it, and I won't stand for that. || People are already going to be staying home, as it's already snowing in September. I don't believe in anything you guys are doing, but I won't be going out to big events because it isn't fun anymore. When all I see is people screaming and judging people for wearing a mask or not wearing a mask, it isn't fun. I have a small circle of people that haven't lost their common sense or decency, and I will keep it that way. I'm not even going to bother going into the stores. We never go out to eat because of long waits and crappy service due to lack of workers or no workers. Last year sucked the fun out of all these things, and it isn't enjoyable. You had a part in this. || Common sense, (which is lacking) is wash your freaking hands. We don't need an ordinance to wash hands. My 3 year old understands this and does it without being prompted. It should be common sense if someone is very sick, they should stay home. If we stayed home for every single sneeze or snuffle, we would never go anywhere. Besides, Forrest shows up to meetings coughing and sniffing, why shouldn't anyone else? Especially people with young kids. My nieces have been sent home from daycare countless times this year -- because of runny noses due to ALLERGIES. This covid over everything complex needs to stop. || Suggesting weekly testing is an absolute JOKE. It takes waiting in line for hours and 2-3 DAYS to get a test back. No thanks. If you're suggesting ""weekly testing"" when tests come back 2-3 days later, what's the point? People would just be in quarantine for ever. Oh, I see... this is your way of trying to mandate vaccination without actually saying it. || They Mayor has clearly made his stance on all of this clear. Yet, the Assembly feels the need to interject and try to override his decision. News flash. YOU guys aren't the Mayor. Anchorage voted. They chose Bronson. Get over it. You guys claim ""you'll work with the mayor"", but you really mean you will only work with him if he agrees to your ways. Stupid. Petty. Annoying. Drama. You guys think you're experts in everything, which is impossible. Please stop. Let the Mayor attempt to do his job for one second without trying to interject. Anchorage chose him for a reason, it doesn't matter if you didn't because you work for US, not the other way around. || There's no need to interject anything president Biden is saying about mandated vaccinations. Again, weekly testing is not attainable if people are supposed to wait for test results. The federal government is so out of line with trying to force this on the American people. I cannot trust an administration who closes a blind eye to reality. Joe Biden is the president, this is true. But it doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that things are not going well under his administration. It's fine if you don't believe it. I'm not a political person, but the government is destroying everything. We have family in Texas, military members, police officers, and nurses in our family. I believe them and their first hand experiences over anything. Just because the government says something doesn't mean it's true. All news and media is trash, biased from either side. It's tearing everything apart. Honestly, you would be better off not to mention more about what the government wants. ""Nothing to see here, folks"". Right. || This ordinance is further dividing people. When you say that some shouldn't be required to wear a mask because of safety or deafness, etc... how is the common person supposed to know if someone has this issue? All you're doing is going to cause people to point fingers and cause so much hostility when people aren't wearing a mask. How would anyone know if someone is vaccinated or not? Did you want us to wear those ""I'm vaccinated"" stickers everyone got, Or what? This is so out of line. It's no one's business if someone is vaccinated or not. I honestly do not care. I won't treat someone different based on their vaccination status, but you will. Clearly. || Obviously those in police custody or incarceration are not going to be masked... haaa. This made me laugh. I am imagining my

husband, a police officer trying to stay 6 feet away from someone and kindly asking them to cuff themselves. It's pretty funny, because the people he contacts are generally not clean -- probably not vaccinated and surely don't have a concerns about getting close. Our family is already a ""high risk"" for my husband bringing home covid because of the people he contacts. We haven't been sick the entire two years, aside from when I got sick after the covid19 vaccine. We take the risks that come with life. We are done with the show. ||We can remove our masks to ""briefly scratch an itch""? It this real? Honestly, I laughed out loud. I know this has been in the previous ordinances as well, but do we really need this spelled out? Like okay, masks must be worn at all times EXCEPT to scratch an itch. BRIEFLY. What if the mask itself makes your nose itch? Mine does. I guess we will have a lot of ""brief"" itching going on. ||Separating vaccinated and unvaccinated workers. Nice. Lets further the divide. What about those that can't get vaccinated? I guess it doesn't matter. All that matters is everyone gets their shots because they MIGHT not get covid. Again, I don't care if someone is vaccinated or isnt. It's a bizarre question to ask someone. Do we ask them if they vaccinated for anything else? That will be my response if anyone asks me if I'm vaccinated. ||Some businesses have been and already are requiring masks. They did this on their own accord, not because you forced it. People ARE capable of making their own decisions, in case you forgot that. ||The part that makes me the most upset is the part about suggesting 2 year olds wear masks. Also, you should refrain from using the word DAYCARE -- it's an outdated phrase with negative connotations and should be called CHILD CARE as many providers also take care of kids during the night. Its' about caring for children, not the day. How many of you have seen a room of masked toddlers or preschoolers? What is the transmission rate of covid within child care children? Do you even know? Have you ever spent time with young children being masked over 10 hours a day? What does that look like? Do you even know? I am willing to say that's a big no. If needed, I will be more than willing to bring a group of toddlers and preschoolers to the assembly meeting and let's just see if they can remain masked for 3 minutes. That will be the testimony and it'll be a big fat NO. This is so out of touch with reality and what is best for children. You shouldn't even put this in an ordinance, because it is confusing to parents and providers and will cause must distress among everyone. ||Do whatever you guys are going to do -- it's what you always do. Its why I don't like participating in Assembly business. Its' why I don't enjoy participating in community council meetings. Its all a big club that I want nothing to do with because no one can just disagree anymore, its a war no matter what. But you're crossing the lines, and you need to stop. ||I'm trying to be respectful as possible, I don't have ill will on any of you and don't hate anyone. I wish you all well, even though I am upset. I think you THINK you're doing right. But really, you are making this situation worse and I cannot and will not have another year like last year suffering from mental health because of decisions the Assembly made. The people of Anchorage chose Bronson. I know this wasn't your choice, but please respect that the people have chosen and this isn't about you. |||Thank you,|||

Name: Kathryn Cross

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 11:52:37 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 Page 9 Public Health and Safety Measures for the COVID 19 Pandemic

Testimony: Dear Mayor Bronson and Assembly Members, |My name is Kathryn Cross. I am a speech pathologist and a community member in Anchorage. The rate of COVID19 infections is extremely alarming. I am in support of a mask mandate for the municipality of Anchorage. The only way to get a handle on the significant community spread of COVID 19 is to have a mask mandate. I don't want to see the city and schools go back into a lock down but we may if we don't do something. The hospitals are overrun with patients and are rationing care. We cannot sustain this, especially with COVID19 infections continuing to increase. I support a mask mandate. ||Sincerely,|| Kathryn Cross

Name: Rebecca Regan

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 12:03:15 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Agenda Item 10.G.3 Masks Ordinance

Testimony: I will keep my comments brief. I don't support the mask mandate 1st as things stand any Alaskan who wants to can wear a mask. If the assembly was truly concerned to the state of Alaska they would all be wearing masks but as countless photos show government member are out in the public neither social distancing or masking. 2nd it is my belief that this is an over reach of the assembly duties outlined by city and state statute and as such opens the city up to costly and unnecessary ligation. 3rd the bag fee has been reintroduced even though the suspension had been brought up by the mayor as a clean and effective ways to reduce germ spread in high contact areas. The scattered approach to public health appears to be nothing more then a political game. 4th the state public health confirms that additional health staff are in route to alaska and that no rationed care is happening on a scale.

Name: Gretchen Nelson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 12:07:28 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91, an ordinance of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly regarding public health and safety measures for the COVID-19 pandemic,

Testimony: I support Ordinance No. AO 2021-91, an ordinance of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly regarding public health and safety measures for the COVID-19 pandemic, and ask the Anchorage assembly to take action in order to reduce the spread of Covid 19 and most importantly to support our healthcare workers. Please take this important action.

Name: O C Madden III

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 12:45:42 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am absolutely opposed to the mask mandate. The role of government is not to dictate to me, the role of government is to protect my rights. My wife and I have both had covid, and I know it is a real disease. She caught it at work, while wearing a mask, from an infected person wearing a mask. Masks dont work. Fortunately we were able to take hydroxichloriquine, which immediately reversed the course of the disease. Your proposal fails to recommend any real solutions, such as daily intake of vitamin D, and zinc.

Name: Alissa Wardwell

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 1:18:36 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I support AO 2021-91. Our health care workers have been requesting assistance for weeks now. The idea that people will ""do the right thing"" to help the community has been proven incorrect. Our community needs to take active measures to get our case counts down. Requiring masks is one of the least restrictive policies that can be implemented. ||Thank you,|Alissa Wardwell|Dedicated teacher|Concerned mother with children under 12|Voting citizen

Name: Elaine Rasher

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 1:23:26 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: To the Anchorage Assembly, ||| I am writing in order to voice my OPPOSITION to the proposed mask mandates. The actions this Assembly are taking to circumvent the role and authority of the Mayor and the Constitution are unlawful and illegal despite the wordplay and justifications you endeavor to employ. The longer you play these games the more the citizenry sees that your true motivation is a hunger for power. The best interests of the people is merely a verbal panacea used by you as an attempt to cover over your self serving actions. This town and its businesses have suffered for far too long under your toxic ""leadership"" and we will suffer no longer. Your time is up. The truth is out. We will not comply. Fear does not rule this land anymore. We are, have been, and will always be free. You are on notice that your days as leaders are finished. You have been measured, weighed, and found wanting. |

Name: Mike Conner

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 1:29:39 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate for the Municipality of Anchorage

Testimony: I oppose the assembly attempting to put forth a mask mandate. The will of the people has spoken when it elected Mayor Dave Bronson. The mayor has clearly stated that he does not believe in ""forcing"" citizens to wear a mask and that he believes in the rights of the citizens to choose what they feel is best for themselves and their families. Regardless of what good intentions some Assembly members believe they have, the will of the people have spoken when they elected Mayor Dave Bronson. I realize that this will fall on deaf ears, as it has time and time again with the assembly majority, but I'm doing my part by expressing my opposition.

Name: Leon Jaimes

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 1:38:14 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 4.L. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91, an ordinance of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly regarding public health and safety measures for the COVID-19 pandemic

Testimony: Hello Assembly Members, | Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. I live in Assembly District 5 and I wanted to augment my scheduled telephonic testimony with written testimony as well. I encourage you all to support AO 2021-91. I particularly appreciate the assistance to the mayor, who as noted in the ordinance, may have found himself at a loss as to what more can be done to combat COVID-19. It is true that some businesses do not want to implement mask or vaccine mandates because they are waiting for OSHA guidance. I don't feel this is necessary. We are two years into this pandemic and for years prior to the start of this pandemic, state and local governments have conducted emergency response planning in coordination with private sector entities. Emergency plans which include how to address pandemics predate COVID-19. All parties should be well aware of what is expected at this point and they should be well entrenched in the process of critically evaluating how best to run their organizations appropriately given the circumstances. | A small contingent of vocal and dramatic community members have been voraciously referencing the false media stories such as the Israeli Study on Natural Immunity (<https://www.factcheck.org/2021/09/scicheck-instagram-post-missing-context-about-israeli-study-on-covid-19-natural-immunity/>), incorrectly stating the number of Covid deaths according to VAERS data (<https://www.reuters.com/article/factcheck-vaers-12000/fact-check-vaers-data-does-not-prove-covid-19-vaccine-deaths-exceeded-12000-idUSL1N2P21DB>), that mothers are being torn from their babies at the hospital, and the misinformation propagated by Dr. Peter McCullough about alternatives to vaccination. It is probably nothing less than a full-time challenge governing under the barrage of these myths. The June 1st, 2021 report ""Pandemic Profiteers - The business of anti-vaxx"" from the Center for Countering Digital Hate (https://252f2edd-1c8b-49f5-9bb2-cb57bb47e4ba.filesusr.com/ugd/f4d9b9_13cbbbef105e459285ff21e94ec34157.pdf) states that ""Anti-vaxxers represent an industry with annual revenues of at least \$36 million"" and that ""The anti-vaxx industry's total social media following of 62 million could be worth up to \$1.1 billion to social media platforms"". That said, I would encourage you to support this AO based on facts, and to ignore the well-intentioned fear of individuals who have been swept up in conspiracies, myths, misinformation, and disinformation. It is certainly an uphill battle, and it is likely that this vocal minority will loudly voice their opposition, but this AO will help protect the direct and indirect victims of these misinformation campaigns too, even if they do not believe it will. | Vaccines remain the most powerful tool in the fight against COVID-19, including the Delta variant. Nonetheless, the Delta variant is infecting a small percentage of the vaccinated in the Anchorage area. These breakthrough cases remain strongly protected against severe illness, hospitalization, and death. In those instances of infection in a vaccinated person, a face covering prevents further spread, so it is beneficial that this AO implements masking as it is an important temporary measure that will help us deal with the Delta variant, and future variants. This will help to stem the sharp rise in cases, hospitalizations and deaths in our community. Wearing face coverings indoors protects each other and we help to alleviate the burden currently being shouldered by our healthcare workers. | Furthermore, I fully support businesses, organization, and governments mandating vaccinations. I also support the right of individuals who choose not to get vaccinated to do so. I encourage the assembly to work with federal partners and the Administration to aggressively promote and educate the public about the benefits of vaccination, as well as assisting individuals who are not able to meet the requirements of vaccine

mandates with their transition into opportunities which reduce their risk to public health through existing social assistance programs and federal aid. | Finally, I appreciate the language in the AO that clarifies that the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is the same thing as the name it will be marketed under, Comirnaty. I know that the mayor was recently a victim of misinformation when he was informed, incorrectly that they are different, and proclaimed in animated surprise that he had no idea they were different. I found this concerning because two weeks prior, the FDA had provided guidance to the contrary which states that ""Comirnaty has the same formulation as the FDA-authorized Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and can be used interchangeably to provide the COVID-19 vaccination series without presenting any safety or effectiveness concerns. The products are legally distinct with certain differences that do not impact safety or effectiveness."" That guidance can be found here: <https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/qa-comirnaty-covid-19-vaccine-mrna>. The FDA also provides information via RSS, Twitter, and Facebook that the mayor and other leaders may find helpful in their efforts to stay apprised of factual and current information about COVID-19. | Thank you for your time. | Warm regards and humble thanks, | Leon Jaimes | Anchorage, AK 99508

Name: Terry Drake

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 1:46:15 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO-2021-91

Testimony: Hello everyone, |I want to tell you I'm greatly opposed to this agenda item. |I see this move by the assembly to push your agenda to kill small businesses. |It's been obvious since the spending of the cares act funds you care nothing about the people. |Just like the actions of the people you supported at Beans Cafe, Disgraceful. |While the Sully was being used as an emergency shelter your security people were selling drugs. A lot of the homeless will openly talk about it if you ask like I did. |This among many other things is why I have lost all confidence in this current assembly. |I have no belief that you will do the right thing for Anchorage! |I support Mayor Dave Bronson |Bronson All Day Long! |Terry Drake

Name: Theresa Imlach

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 2:05:12 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I strongly oppose mask mandates. Almost all of the businesses I walk into do not have medical staff on hand. Businesses who are mandating masks are playing doctor without a license. Masks need to be a personal choice! ||You told us to trust the government and what have you done to us? It went from two weeks to flatten the curve to show my your papers. I have friends that are nurses that have been fired because they didnt want to take the experimental shot. There is no long term data on what these shots will do to you down the line. Last year heroes are being pushed out the door. ||Please look at the VERY LATEST Israel data with over 80 percent of the population taken the Pfizer shots. They are on their third shot and YET seeing the highest levels of COVID spread and death since the pandemic started. Look at places in India where they have the lowest vaccine rates but give their citizens Ivermectin which reduces viral load and spread. ||Fear will only perpetuate this insanity. Please help Alaskans.

Name: Lisa Evanoff

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 2:29:14 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 2021-91

Testimony: I am hoping you will consider that a mask mandate will not be beneficial to stop the spread of Covid-19. I believe it should be up to the individual whether they wear one or not. I would rather see more beneficial ways to keep yourself healthy, vitamin d, zinc, etc. also alternative options if one contracts COVID-19, antibodies, ivermectin. |Thank you

Name: Laura Bonner

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 2:37:15 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Item 13.B AO 2021-24

Testimony: September 24, 2021 | | To: Suzanne LaFrance | Assembly Representative John Weddleton | Anchorage Assembly | From: Laura Bonner | Re: Opposition to Proposed Rezone Case AO 2021-24 Sky Ridge Subdivision | | I oppose this rezone request from R-6 to R-7 and joined my neighbors in filing a protest on September 23, 2021. My concerns are listed below: | | 1. Negative impact on my well-water supply. I have a document prepared for the Terraces development dated June 30, 2003 that shows static water levels of surrounding wells. My well was in the 180.1 - 221.2 feet range. I replaced my well pump in March 2013 and my static water level was 142 feet, a difference of 40 - 80 feet in ten years. Will the draw down of water in the aquifer by 32 additional households eventually endanger my water supply in 10 to 15 years? If the rezone is approved, I agree with HALO that tests of 5 exploratory wells be performed and further that those test results be readily available to us who have neighboring wells. | 2. If rezone is approved, limit the number of household and wells to 32 units. | 3. Increased amount or traffic on the substandard roads Hane Street and E 112th Ave. If rezone is approved, the secondary access must be Lake Otis, not Hane Street. | 4. If rezone is approved, do not allow construction traffic on Hane Street or E 112th Ave because these substandard local roads cannot handle the construction equipment, dump trucks and other heavy loads. The developer has already had numerous dump trucks hauling materials on Hane Street and E 112th over several days this past week. | | Please consider our neighborhood's concerns because effects of your decision will impact us in the early stages of development of Sky Ridge and for years to come especially if it endangers our access to water. | | Sincerely, | Laura Bonner | 3101 E 112th Ave |

Name: David Ferriera

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 3:45:09 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am in favor of Ordinance No. AO 2021-91, an ordinance of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly regarding public health and safety measures for the COVID-19 pandemic, Assembly Members Zaletel and Petersen. || We need to do a better job at getting out of this pandemic and these measures will help us do so. || Too many of our friends, family, and neighbors are dying. I call on our local government (this assembly) to act now.

Name: Timbi Barron

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 4:16:39 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandates

Testimony: Our Covid cases are reaching daily records. We are sick and we are dying. Our health care professionals and facilities are overwhelmed. Please save us by, at a minimum, requiring masks.

Name: Kenneth Ayers

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 4:37:49 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: I fully support a mask mandate. I understand that the mayor will not enforce it, but I believe it is needed to make clear how terrible the situation with the pandemic still is within the city. | Masks work, people should wear them and get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Name: Lakota Holman

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 4:39:09 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91, an ordinance of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly regarding public health and safety measures for the COVID-19 pandemic, Assembly Members Zaletel and Petersen.

Testimony: I support a municipal-wide mask mandate. In this state, we are interconnected. The 514 deaths and more than 2,300 hospitalizations because of Covid 19 have taken a great toll on our communities statewide. We know people who suffer. Masks are one means within our control to help slow the spread of the corona virus. It is one of many steps governments and individuals can take to improve our public health. | I am an educator, my spouse is also an educator, my two children under 10 attend public schools in Anchorage. The kids have not been anywhere besides school and before- and after- school care. They have not been to the store or in eating establishments. My spouse and I have greatly limited our social interactions. We wear masks at work, when we get groceries, and whenever else we are around others in the community. In September 2021, all members of my immediate family tested positive for the virus. This virus is very contagious. | We will not see the infections peak so that they may decline unless we do something tangible as a population. Alaska has the highest case count in the nation now. It is not the time to become complacent. It is time to put in place the advice of healthcare professionals and epidemiologists. | Today, I worry about winter roads, fires as temperatures drop, kids climbing trees or playing sports, and other common causes of injury and illness that warrant hospital and ER visits. I worry for our healthcare system and workers that they are working at the top of their capacities. As a city and hub for healthcare, we have responsibilities to those in Anchorage and those across the state from our rural areas that depend on our hospital systems to care for people. For our public health, a mask mandate is a responsible item to adopt. It is something that we have already shown we can accomplish as a community. |

Name: Lara Madden

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 4:54:44 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO-2021-91

Testimony: Again this group of Assembly Members are completely out of line and out of scope with the proposed ordinance AO No. 2021-91. ||None of you are doctors, none of you are any type of health professional with the capacity to make the choice to mask the members of the Municipality of Anchorage. ||Your amendment notes comments from Jared Kosin, Dr. Robert Onders and Dave Wallace. Three medical professionals who should be looking for TREATMENT for the covid-19 patients in the hospital. Currently they are NOT TREATING COVID-19 patients with known medicine that would cure them. The ""disaster mode"" they are speaking of is caused by their inability to look beyond intubating patients and using Remdesivir, a medication that has a half chance of helping the patients. The lack of treatment for patients is the cause of the disaster they are complaining about. ||That being said the approved Monoclonal Antibody Treatment is now available in Alaska and should be what these medial professionals go to instead of again falsely stating that masking humanity will stop Covid-19 from spreading. Only herd immunity will work and use of actual treatments that end Covid-19 illness will work. ||The virus is STILL TOO SMALL for a paper/medical grade or other mask to stop. Most of us caught and fought covid fully masked last year. Forcing masks on the citizens of our Municipality will still not stop COVID-19 or any of it's variants. AO No. 2021-91 is NOT the answer for our community.|||

Name: Christina Lowther

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 4:57:40 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: A1-2021-91

Testimony: We have experienced mask mandates now in our community, it is not new. However, we also have additional data from not only our countries but those around the world. It is my impression that mandates are not the way to protect the health of our community, rather individuals should be given the freedom to assess their own risk and businesses continue to implement their own policies.

Name: Lara Madden

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 5:01:43 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO-2021-92

Testimony: As a lifelong citizen of the Municipality of Anchorage, I am in awe at the ridiculous AUDACITY written into AO-2021-92. | |Until the election of Mayor Bronson, none of you cared about the language in Municipal Code Section 2.30.095. | |The language in this ordinance shows your petty, political positioning and honestly, you look like fools. And honestly, this will come back to hurt you if in the future one of your cronies becomes Mayor and the elected assembly at that time does not like your appointees. | |You look like petulant children. Stop. |

Name: Amie Collins

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 8:06:12 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14B - AO 2021-91

Testimony: It's time for Anchorage to implement a temporary mask mandate. In fact, the time is long overdue. || I support AO 2021-91. || Over half of my household is categorically ineligible for vaccination due to their young age. But they deserve to live in a safe community that values their health. With widespread masking in place and cases declining in early summer, we felt safe enough to frequent parks again, short shopping trips, and even visit with friends. Now, with outrageously high case counts in Alaska, we seem to be engaged in a constant shuffle of who's home waiting test results and quarantining now in even our small social circle due to exposures in school. Once again we are unable to safely do the simplest of things as a family like fine with our grandparents, go to a movie, or take a trip together to a grocery store. It's just not fair, and it's not good for the health and strength of our families. || Most recently, I was forced to cancel our pediatric physical, speech, and occupational therapy appointments, putting us back on a 5-6 month wait list at another practice for these important intervention services for our 21 month old, special needs, foster child. Why? Because the medical office that finally had an opening refused to mask, despite having members of their staff unvaccinated, thanks to the politicization of a simple public health measure. As a parent volunteer frequently in our elementary school, I have seen a handful of staff members working with students without their mask on several times, and now question whether it was safe for us to return our 7 year old to school in the first place. || I appreciate that people have concerns about vaccination, and I understand the value of bodily autonomy. But at the point where someone's refusal to wear a mask infringes upon the freedom of movement of children in their own city, and threatens their family's health as breakthrough cases continue to occur, we have chosen personal preference over our basic right to live in a safe society. || I will not waste time citing case counts, or death tolls, because as elected officials you all are well aware by now of the harm this virus is causing our city. And frankly if we don't value the lives of our neighbors enough to wear a simple mask, then there is truly no hope for this community. || I urge you to pass this mask mandate, and keep it in effect until the choice to be protected from COVID-19 via vaccination is a choice extended to ALL residents of Anchorage regardless of their age or community transmission is once again under control.

Name: Max Aronson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 8:10:08 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: COVID 19

Testimony: I am strongly in favor of a city-wide mask mandate until community transmission of COVID-19 drops below ""High""

Name: Stephanie Warnock

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 8:15:25 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I will be brief, as I know you are overwhelmed with dealing with our public health emergency and all of the ramifications of it, including people being mobilized to be disruptive during such a crucial time. On top of everything else you are tasked to do. || I strongly support mask mandates and every other data-based recommended action that we can take to reduce the spread of the virus and crush this terrible surge. Facilitating access to quality masks and information/guidance regarding proper wear and care of masks seems like it would also be extremely helpful. || Anyone with any level of experience learns that, sadly, education is NEVER enough to encourage enough humans to do the right thing. This is why we have to ultimately do unpleasant things like create laws, rules, fines, bans, etc in the first place - and even then there's a significant percentage of people unwilling to comply. || We should be coming together to fight the common enemy - which is COVID-19. The virus will continue to spread and mutate to the degree that we allow it to continue to run amok. I thought we shared a common understanding in this country that our freedoms ends where they begin to impinge upon the freedom and safety of others, but we sadly seem to be losing that shared understanding. || We need strong, informed leadership driven not by ideology or personal beliefs, but driven by the science and the common good. We cannot have a healthy economy without a healthy populace, school system, hospital system. || I appreciate the work of the assembly. I know these are unprecedented times and you are working in a very stressful climate making extremely vital - literally life and death - decisions. || Stephanie Warnock | Anchorage resident ||

Name: Rachel Humphreys

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 8:22:42 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I implore the muni to establish a mask mandate. |It's clear that COVID is out of control in our state, and denying the existence of the virus isn't helping. |As a mother of two children too young for the vaccine, it's impossible to feel safe and people are too selfish to do the right thing without being told they have to.

Name: James Wright

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 9:05:28 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Item 14.L., AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: My name is James Wright. I am a business owner and resident of the Municipality of Anchorage. I support AO No. 2021-91, regarding public health and safety measures for the Covid-19 pandemic. The general health and welfare of the community requires this measure, and we will not return to a healthy state in the business community until there are adequate public health measures to bring the pandemic under better control. I am an attorney. At present, the pandemic has caused the court system to significantly inhibit public access, slowing the wheels of justice. The pandemic has caused the hospital system to be overwhelmed, so that persons with significant health issues may be unable to have adequate health care. This is not acceptable. It is avoidable by prudent public health and safety measures. AO No. 2021-91 is a needed and compelling step in the right direction. I ask you to pass this measure, and to enforce it vigorously.

Name: Rebecca Hamel

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 9:05:57 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I am a VERY tired nurse and infection Preventionist working at the largest healthcare facility in Alaska. Masking is a proven strategy that when used in addition to hand hygiene, vaccination, physical distancing, keeping social bubbles small can minimize the spread of COVID. Be part of the solution and not part of the pandemic.

Name: Daniel Clift

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 9:11:29 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Please do not vote in favor of another mask mandate. The only FDA approved preventative measure is vaccination. Airlines across the country are encountering violent hostilities from persons forced to comply with mask mandates. I do not anticipate this resulting in any positive outcome, rather only more violent confrontations. Why compound an already tense situation with more partisan bickering? Its too late for this to help.

Name: Nancy Ordway

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 9:18:28 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: As Anchorage resident and as a long time Alaskan, I feel that we need the mask mandate and the vaccine mandate to save lives. Any one who Doesn't want The vaccination Can stay at Home.

Name: Janice Henderson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 10:11:38 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14. L.

Testimony: I am in favor of requiring mask wearing, social distancing as well as reducing maximum numbers of patrons in restaurants and shops.

Name: Alison Hansen

Date/Time Submitted: 9/24/2021 10:17:18 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Please support the madk mandate. At this level of the pandemic, we can't rely on the mayor or others to do the right thing anymore. For the good of our city, of our communities it is time that we all work together and mask up. ||Please support this ordinance.||Thank you,|Anchorage Resident |Alison Hansen

Name: Colleen Heaney-Mead

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 1:35:02 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: Please, please pass a mask ordinance. I have been very cautious since March 2020 but a quick trip into a store where I was the only one masked led to my getting covid. In addition to fearing for the health of myself and my family, I had to close my home daycare. This means that I lost my income, my wife lost her income because she is taking care of our kids, and my clients lost their income because they have to be home with their children. A mask ordinance will help keep us safe and also benefit our economy.

Name: Cynthia Davis

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 7:16:55 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Re: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I support a mask mandate. |I am an immunocompromised adult who does not retain protection from vaccines, I have received the 3 moderna vaccinces and flu vaccine on advice of my immunologist. |Since January 2020, I have only gone to medical appointments and grocery shopping. |I have been confronted & harassed for wearing masks while shopping for groceries, others Point laugh and snicker. |A piece of cloth over your face, a little kindness and compassion never hurt anyone. This virus is very deadly for some. |Stop making this pandemic a political statement and treat it as a medical crisis that it is. |We all need to do our part to save lifes. |Please Institute a mask mandate, I was not harassed when a mask mandate was in place. Thank you!

Name: Stacie Morris

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 9:23:49 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L

Testimony: Please help relieve the dangerous strain on our Healthcare system and protect the people of Anchorage by passing ordinance AO-2021-91 requiring masks in all indoor spaces(in accordance with current CDC guidelines).

Name: Rodger Lewerenz

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 9:30:07 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: We know masks work to reduce the spread of Covid. There is study after study demonstrating this. We are being overwhelmed by more and more patients in the hospitals. We need to slow this thing down. Please institute a mask mandate. Thank you.

Name: Paxson Woelber

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 9:33:37 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am writing for myself and not on behalf of any organization. | On September 7, facing a massive surge of COVID-19 cases in Anchorage, mayor Dave Bronson responded ""I don't know what more we can do."" | Since Bronson's statement, our COVID-19 case count has reached previously-unimaginable highs and many Anchorage residents have died. Our hospitals are now at their breaking points. I ask that Mayor Bronson be taken at his word: that he simply lacks capacity to confront this crisis. I urge the Assembly to fill the void in leadership and take all reasonable and available measures to protect public health.

Name: Susan Fischer

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 9:35:28 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: universal mask mandate. AO 2021-91

Testimony: Good evening, |As an American citizen by birth, I believe in the Constitution of the US. I have the right to choose my own health care choices. With Asthma the masks cause me more distress than good. Through out this whole pandemic I have been in the presence of people who had Covid-19 and did not contract it myself. I choose natural products to protect myself. If the government would allow doctors to use the natural products that have proved effective this would be over. Back to masks. It should be a persons choice whether they wear one or not. Those afraid of getting sick should stay home. Let those that are healthy live a normal life according to their choice. Please do not force your views of what is right for our health on the citizen's of Anchorage. Thank you.

Name: Margaret Lipski

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 9:49:34 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: mask mandate

Testimony: The Covid count for positive cases has skyrocketed. According to the scientific facts that are available to everyone, one of the easiest ways to help combat this crisis is to wear masks. It protects EVERYONE not just the unvaccinated. Please institute a mask mandate for all businesses that are inside a building. We must do what we can to stop the high spread of Covid. | Thank you.

Name: Edward Toal

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 10:46:49 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: We know from experience that mask mandates are effective at keeping our hospitals from being overwhelmed with Covid patients. We need a mask mandate now.

Name: Kelly Pendley

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 10:51:08 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 2021-91

Testimony: I am not in support of the assembly instituting a mask mandate. Mask mandates do not fall within your scope, as the assembly let the last 2 mayors make those decisions, but along partisan lines will not grant the same power to the current mayor. |It is difficult and tedious for businesses to have to comply with your non-laws. Let people manage themselves. It is clear the assembly is trying to seize power that it has no business obtaining. George Washington once famously said,| |""But let there be no change by usurpation; for though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed.""| |Please stop trying to 'save us from ourselves'. That is extremely condescending. We are educated professionals, we know how to manage ourselves. It is certainly not the Assembly's job to help us in this realm. Stay in your lane. |

Name: John Murphy

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 11:21:10 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I fully support AO 2021-91. Please pass it to help protect the citizens of Anchorage.

Name: Kelly Murphy

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 11:22:50 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I fully support AO 2021-91. Please pass it.

Name: Patti Irwin

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 11:34:50 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 page 9

Testimony: I fully support a municipal wide mask mandate. Scientists have investigated the benefits and found that masking is effective at limiting the spread of contagions. Our most respected medical professionals have been begging us to do this throughout the pandemic. Anecdotally, I was masked throughout spring semester last school year as a taught face to face classes. It was the first year of my 35 years in the classroom that I did NOT get sick -- with anything. We taught summer school without masks. I caught a cold for the first time since the pandemic started. After being tested negative for Covid I returned to work but wearing a mask not because it was required but because I thought it was responsible. I was alone in the building to do this. We have seen that making this an option has been an abysmal failure. Alaska once again leads the nation in a negative situation. The public responds to the leadership and our leadership has remained passively quiet. It is time to step up to the plate and do the difficult thing for the benefit of our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Carol Clausson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 12:04:42 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: Please consider ||a mask mandate|| be reinstated in ||Anchorage.|| It is||not a just ||a personal ||decision|| because it ||affects the entire ||community. ||Listen to the ||medical experts. ||We are in the ||middle of a ||pandemic that is ||airborne ||spread.|| It is killing ||Alaskans. Please ||help us.|| Thank you.||

Name: Nancy Burke

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 12:36:52 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Our community is in crisis now with high rates of COVID-19. Hospitals are overwhelmed, medical staff exhausted and now we are heading into the months of the year where we anticipate higher rates throughout the fall and winter if prior trends hold true. The low rates of vaccination combined with resistance to following science-based prevention practices like masking, distancing and proper hygiene leaves us with a situation where so many more people are likely to become ill and some will die because we refuse to understand that this is not a simple matter of personal choice. A quick walk through any grocery store holds less than 20% of the people using safe practices - very few masks and frequent lack of distancing. || I am writing in support of AO 2021-91 because local and state governments are the place where community standards and actions that protect the whole of the community are implemented and should be enforced. For example, we have rules about where and how refuse is handled, how vehicles may be operated and how everyday things we do individually are shaped in ways that keep everyone safe. We have to show vaccination records to enroll in schools and the university - not just here in Alaska, everywhere across the country. These practices are not new and are not considered personal liberties - people cannot dump waste anywhere they want because there are rules that maintain the health of the whole. Adherence to public health protocols is about community health and not personal liberties. || Wearing a mask has been proven to reduce the spread of COVID-19 through reducing the spread of respiratory particles that carry the virus. The greater risk of not controlling the spread of the virus is the risk of seeing a more virulent strain develop. For the same reason doctors always warn us to take all of the dosage of antibiotics when prescribed - to prevent bacteria from becoming stronger and creating a 'mutant strain', we should be trying to tamp down the spread of COVID-19 to protect those who are vulnerable right now and to prevent a more virulent strain of the disease to follow. || Currently, I am limiting my business at any local restaurants due to the risk of transmission. While I am vaccinated, I still understand the risk that my actions could lead to spread of the disease through passing the virus on if I have a breakthrough case. I know many people who want to go to restaurants and other locations for social gatherings, but they are not because they are concerned about disease transmission and they want everyone to stay safe. This lack of confidence in the community's ability to prevent illness and death is bad for the economy and bad for Anchorage. A mask mandate will help control transmission and will help bring people out to visit local businesses as the transmission rates fall. || Please pass AO 2021-91 so we can go back to prior levels of low disease transmission, to promote safe settings for our community members, safe levels of patients at hospitals and to protect our economy. | Nancy Burke |

Name: Patty Bryant

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 12:42:46 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91.

Testimony: As a 45 year Alaska resident married to a 3rd generation Alaskan, I am appalled at the lack of leadership from Mayor Bronson. He is more worried about those who got him elected turning on him if he mandates masks in public, than he is with the doing what is best at this time for our community, health care system or kids. A 30 day mandate would give us all a chance to catch our breath and reset. It's obvious he isn't about doing what is right for all, just his group.

Name: Alecia Rathlin

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 3:24:12 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L Ordinance No. 2021-91

Testimony: I support mandating masks for the purpose of supporting and protecting our healthcare infrastructure, and I hope you will too. I hope you will do everything you can to protect our healthcare system and it's workers, which in turn protects our society. | | Clearly, leaving mask, vaccine, and social distancing choice up to individual citizens does not prevent collapse of our most precious and vital infrastructure. Doing nothing to address the problem is NOT working. We cannot keep ignoring the issue. Alaskans should not have to worry whether the life saving care they need will be available when they need it. These are real people not just numbers on a report each business day. These are mothers, fathers, daughters, sons, sisters, brothers, grandparents. The grief of their loss carries on in their loved ones. The ripple effects of the choices we make carry on for years. I do wonder, if we don't turn this around, how many people will leave the healthcare industry or students will choose a different field after watching the abuse from a loud portion of the society they are expected to serve. Please support them! | | Your actions during this time will be evaluated and judged for decades, not just the next election cycle. You have an impact, please make it count. | | Thank you, | Alecia Rathlin

Name: Michael Shiffer

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 3:38:37 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: I write in support of another mask mandate in our community. The data is clear. We are breaking transmission records like never before. The simple equalizer, voluntary vaccination, does not work. The result is the heavy-handed, but oh so necessary, mandatory masking in all public places. Masks are no more an infringement on rights than clothing. | | We have a Mayor who chooses to lead from ignorance and self-promotion rather than science and fact. It is up to the assembly to address the issue. | | We were on lockdown with less than 100 infections. Now we are leaderless and facing thousands of conditions. | | You ran as leaders of the community. It is time to exercise leadership and save our neighbors. | | Thank you. | | Mike Shiffer | 2200 Banbury Dr. | Anchorage, AK 99504 | 907-538-2118

Name: Danny Parish

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 4:36:02 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Homeless Shelter

Testimony: I want to let everyone know that I would like it if you assembly people would please use some of the 158 million and buy the Northway Mall to move the population over there. |I have been in social services making minimal wages and I purchased this house 27 years ago. Hoping to be able to have a place that I feel safe in. This is NOT THE CASE NOW...|I am in fear everyday. The city should make the citizens that are law abiding and those that have worked their ass off for 40 years here. |I am ashamed to say that this is a horrible experience | |Please rethink this horrible solution you think is ok|..its not ok

Name: Jill Brekken

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 4:37:52 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandates

Testimony: I am in support of a mask mandate for the municipality of Anchorage. It is a simple and effective way to take stress off of our health care system, allow business to remain open and most importantly; save lives.

Name: shelley buranek

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 6:08:32 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14-L

Testimony: No to mask mandates!!! | | No to mask mandates in government buildings | | and absolutely no to burdening businesses | | with enforcing mask mandates. | |

Name: Margaret Wilkinson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 7:19:41 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Please pass this to keep our community safe and give us guidance. Be a leader.

Name: Christiane Schild

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 8:48:51 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ao 2021-91 Mask mandate - No thank you

Testimony: Please vote no to mandating masks universally. This is not what we need to be doing. As a registered nurse I understand our city is hurting from Covid numbers. Our efforts need to be in facilities supporting care, allowing our healthcare workers to continue working without threats and mandatory vaccines. I believe a patient can choose based on their circumstances with their physicians what is best for them specifically. It is reckless for government to rule over the health of individuals. I will not comply with this mandate or with a vaccine mandate. Please if you are open to discussion reconsider and lets talk further.

Name: Douglas Haggar

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 9:26:50 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: I wish to praise and applaud the Assembly for your interest in enacting a Mask Mandate to combat Covid. Keeping Anchorage safe is paramount, and the only way our economy will ever return to normal is by keeping Anchorage well and healthy. Thanks to some of our so-called leaders, we have the worst Covid record in the nation, and it's time to take action to reverse that trend.

Name: Kathy Rumsey

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 10:39:55 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate and taking of Mayors powers

Testimony: I don't know the specific agenda item number for these two items but I know you're fully aware. I strongly oppose the mask mandate. If they work, then you don't need me to wear one. And if they don't, well then I don't need to wear one. || Mayor's powers need to stay the same and should not change just because the assembly doesn't agree with what he's doing.

Name: Kathy Rumsey

Date/Time Submitted: 9/25/2021 10:43:00 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Strongly oppose. If they work, then those afraid or immune compromised can where them. If they don't work, well then I'm not wearing one. Freedom of choice. Religious freedom as well. Goes against my religion to live in fear and question the perfect body my Creator made.

Name: Mauri Long

Date/Time Submitted: 9/26/2021 4:07:49 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.1

Testimony: I encourage the Assembly to reinstitute mandatory masking in public. It could save your life, the life of a loved one and the lives of your friends coworkers, healthcare workers, police and fire personnel, teachers and neighbors, while allowing the economy to continue. It's a no brainer folks.

Name: Aubrey Day

Date/Time Submitted: 9/26/2021 6:32:35 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: A0-2021-91

Testimony: Dear Assembly, I do not support a mask mandate. I'm not a doctor or scientist but I am a wife, mother, daughter and a sister. I'm against enforcing a mandate which would cause many people I know and love to go against their medical freedom. It's insane that so many of the assembly think they know best of the people or should I say the city. Seriously being born and raised in Anchorage it's nothing like it was 15 years ago when I was in my teens. Instead of being focused on a mask mandate why not spend your time cleaning up the city and figuring that stuff out. Mask should be a choice and so should vaccines. Just so you all know that I will never go get a vaccine just because someone told me too. Therefore I will not be wearing a mask just because someone told me so. Just like your taking in information and agreeing with it, I'm researching and taking in information and also agreeing with it. So call it what it is we have to agree to disagree.

Name: Jeff Fowler

Date/Time Submitted: 9/26/2021 9:56:08 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 Mask Mandate

Testimony: The will of the people was shown when Mayor Bronson was elected. Why are you ignoring this?? One of the key election issues he campaigned on was no mask mandate. That has NOT changed, we still do not want it or support it. Stop this insanity and respect the wishes of the people who employ you. Those who wish to wear the mask can and should do so, those who don't are free to make that choice. It really is that simple. You all should be ashamed of how childish you continue to behave. Pathetic.

Name: C Steffens

Date/Time Submitted: 9/26/2021 12:07:53 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Please DO NOT pass AO2021-91 Section 2 and Section 5 as written or if not very substantially modified. || Section 2 is objectionable because it sets the bar too low: it is unreasonable to believe that 50 cases of illness (of any kind, much less Covid-19) will not occur in one week. Likewise, given the record of false positives and false negatives of testing, it is unreasonable to believe 8% will not report positive in one week. Please set reasonable rate: some level which will not require us to be in perpetual crisis mode. We are going to have to learn to live with this, and other virus, as a matter of daily life forever. Please bear that in mind when you impose standards creating a health crisis. How do you want to live? || Please be(come) aware of the traditional life cycle of viruses and the fact that they mutate repeatedly. Viruses have been part of the human condition for hundreds of thousands of years. See Discover Magazine, 2018, reporting virus DNA found in skeletal remains world wide. || Section 5 is objectionable primarily because it imposes enforcement obligations of the municipality onto private businesses. It is unclear whether the government has the authority to delegate enforcement duties to a blanket population of private business owners. Especially when there are no standards set to assure equal and fair enforcement, and no discretion is provided. || Section 5 also is objectionable because it likely will create legal challenges which will cost the Muni substantial monies that should be placed to other public uses. || Thank you for not adopting Section 5 at all.

Name: C Steffens

Date/Time Submitted: 9/26/2021 12:23:10 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-92

Testimony: Please do NOT pass the proposed changes (underlined text) of AO 2021-92. That is changes to AMC 2.30.095 (C); AMC 3.20.020 (A); AMC 3.30.066 (B, G, H). || It is UNWISE to change the operation of government simply because one disagrees with a present situation. Remember, all changes now will apply to future governmental activities and the loss of reason, time for deliberation, and for orderly governmental functions will be lost. || In other words, stop acting childish because as an Assembly member you are not getting your way. Stay steadfast to the tried and true functioning of governing principles. Try to rely on compromise and conciliation instead of power yielding. || Also, please, please remain sensitive to checks and balances between THREE branches of government so as to protect our democratic way of life and not yield to the ""tyranny of the majority"". || Thank you for listening. Thank you even more for being reasonable representatives of the common good and less partisan!

Name: Sheri Thomsom

Date/Time Submitted: 9/26/2021 1:47:28 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: The mask you either don or despise is not just good for your health, it's essential for the economy, too. Let's assume a key goal of reopening the economy from the pandemic lockdown is building a platform for a robust rebound. That means creating ideal business conditions. So, making masks mandatory in public places - especially where business is conducted - is pretty simple because, hey, ""It's the economy, stupid!"" Please understand that a good chunk of the population favors masks and other health-conscious measures by merchants and consumers, seeing them as critical tools to post-virus shopping. These allegedly ""controversial"" health measures actually matter to many people. Businesses not taking customer safety seriously should note that 62% of Americans will skip your store, according to the Ipsos poll.

Name: Elizabeth Redlinger-Eklund

Date/Time Submitted: 9/26/2021 5:00:41 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14-L Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: Dear members of the Anchorage Assembly, | | I am writing to you in support of AO 2021-91. Covid is a threat to our community and we must be prepared to take all necessary steps to mitigate this threat. We cannot depend on individuals to do the right thing for the sake of their community, we have seen that this does not work. When some members of our community choose to not get vaccinated, wear masks in public, and social distance, it puts all of us in danger of contracting Covid. I am particularly concerned about those who are unable to get the vaccine, as they depend on the rest of us to protect them. I am also concerned about the possibility of having to close schools again. Our students lost ground academically and socially since schools closed in March 2020. They need the adults in their community to work together to safely keep schools open. Finally, I am concerned about the small businesses and restaurants that are suffering because we are letting this drag on instead of taking bold steps to stop the spread, flatten the curve, and return to something resembling normal life again. | | I learned a lot about leadership during my years in the Army, including the fact that the right decision is sometimes difficult and unpopular. Please do the right thing by voting for this ordinance. | | Sincerely, | Elizabeth Redlinger-Eklund | Anchorage Resident of District 6

Name: Kristine Durant

Date/Time Submitted: 9/26/2021 6:04:15 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 masking ordinance

Testimony: I am completely against AO 2021-91 masking ordinance. There is no reason to create an ordinance for wearing a mask. The people that want to wear one do and the people that are never going to already do not. Creating more division and hatred is the only thing this ordinance will achieve. There is no reason to make things harder on store owners, citizens, law enforcement, and everyone who is actually choosing to work instead of live on unemployment. Please be rational and realize that anyone who is in a compromised health position is already protecting themselves. They do not need this assembly to force them to wear a mask. We all have the right under the constitution to choose how to protect ourselves medically. Please stop wasting political time on mandates and ordinances that are not needed and please choose to use this important time on more important issues. Thank you so much. -Kristine Durant

Name: Sheldon Coles

Date/Time Submitted: 9/26/2021 6:27:13 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: My family does not want a mask mandate!

Name: Dulcilenia Rodgers

Date/Time Submitted: 9/26/2021 6:29:48 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mash mandate

Testimony: NO MORE MASK it's not healthy for anyone and it's does not prevent COVID!

Name: Laura Griggs

Date/Time Submitted: 9/26/2021 6:38:10 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: Dear Members, ||| I am a born and raised, invested and productive, Anchorage resident. In no other time in my life have I felt so weary to be an Anchorage resident. I am weary of the current political climate. I am weary from the legislative body continuing to have disrespect for the freedom I have as an adult. I am weary of hearing how incompetent and stupid I am. In no other time as a citizen of Earth has the political agenda sought to convince me that I can't and don't make intelligent, autonomous, and informed decisions based on my own personal needs. I am weary, because I know with the current Assembly make up, my opinion as a citizen will be largely shut down and ignored. ||| I am vehemently opposed to a universal mask mandate. I find them incredibly offensive to freedom. I find them medically impossible for my family. I find them an overreach of government. ||| I believe in everyone's right to choose to wear them or not. I believe a business should be able to decide. I believe these mandates, and the majority of the Assembly, are discriminatory and abusive to the public. Yes, allowing and mandating masks is discriminatory and is anti-inclusive. They are hypocritical for many of you who claim inclusivity as a core value. If you can not include my choice in society based on what you would like to happen or value, then yes, you are hypocrites. ||| I will fight for my freedom until the day I die. I hope and pray that as you consider moving forward with this AO 2021-91, you would hold it up against the rights that you value. I hope that you would imagine a world where the core of who you are is stripped away. I would hope that you would begin to imagine a world where your choices are now outlawed, and how life would change, for many of the things you hold precious and dear. ||| This is not just an issue of case counts, political power, or personal conviction. What you seek to do is circumvent the checks and balances system and force your ideology onto the masses. You are sliding down a slippery slope. The future of the Constitution and free society is at risk. Dear Members, ||| I am a born and raised, invested and productive, Anchorage resident. In no other time in my life have I felt so weary to be an Anchorage resident. I am weary of the current political climate. I am weary from the legislative body continuing to have disrespect for the freedom I have as an adult. I am weary of hearing how incompetent and stupid I am. In no other time as a citizen of Earth has the political agenda sought to convince me that I can't and don't make intelligent, autonomous, and informed decisions based on my own personal needs. I am weary, because I know with the current Assembly make up, my opinion as a citizen will be largely shut down and ignored. ||| I am vehemently opposed to a universal mask mandate. I find them incredibly offensive to freedom. I find them medically impossible for my family. I find them an overreach of government. ||| I believe in everyone's right to choose to wear them or not. I believe a business should be able to decide. I believe these mandates, and the majority of the Assembly, are discriminatory and abusive to the public. Yes, allowing and mandating masks is discriminatory and is anti-inclusive. They are hypocritical for many of you who claim inclusivity as a core value. If you can not include my choice in society based on what you would like to happen or value, then yes, you are hypocrites. ||| I will fight for my freedom until the day I die. I hope and pray that as you consider moving forward with this AO 2021-91, you would hold it up against the rights that you value. I hope that you would imagine a world where the core of who you are is stripped away. I would hope that you would begin to imagine a world where your choices are now outlawed, and how life would change, for many of the things you hold precious and dear. ||| This is not just an issue of case counts, political power, or personal conviction. What you seek to do is circumvent the checks and balances system and force your ideology onto the masses. You are sliding down a slippery slope. The future of the Constitution and

free society is at risk., Anchorage resident. In no other time in my life have I felt so weary to be an Anchorage resident. I am weary of the current political climate. I am weary from the legislative body continuing to have disrespect for the freedom I have as an adult. I am weary of hearing how incompetent and stupid I am. In no other time as a citizen of Earth has the political agenda sought to convince me that I can't and don't make intelligent, autonomous, and informed decisions based on my own personal needs. I am weary, because I know with the current Assembly make up, my opinion as a citizen will be largely shut down and ignored. || I am vehemently opposed to a universal mask mandate. I find them incredibly offensive to freedom. I find them medically impossible for my family. I find them an overreach of government. || I believe in everyone's right to choose to wear them or not. I believe a business should be able to decide. I believe these mandates, and the majority of the Assembly, are discriminatory and abusive to the public. Yes, allowing and mandating masks is discriminatory and is anti-inclusive. They are hypocritical for many of you who claim inclusivity as a core value. If you can not include my choice in society based on what you would like to happen or value, then yes, you are hypocrites. || I will fight for my freedom until the day I die. I hope and pray that as you consider moving forward with this AO 2021-91, you would hold it up against the rights that you value. I hope that you would imagine a world where the core of who you are is stripped away. I would hope that you would begin to imagine a world where your choices are now outlawed, and how life would change, for many of the things you hold precious and dear. || This is not just an issue of case counts, political power, or personal conviction. What you seek to do is circumvent the checks and balances system and force your ideology onto the masses. You are sliding down a slippery slope. The future of the Constitution and free society is at risk.

Name: James Marchetti

Date/Time Submitted: 9/26/2021 7:09:52 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am writing to request that you respect the will of the people and not impose any health mandates. We do not need you to mandate masks and voted clearly against these mandates in the last mayoral election. Please do not pass a mask mandate or any health mandates on the people of anchorage.

Name: James Marchetti

Date/Time Submitted: 9/26/2021 7:12:01 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-92

Testimony: I oppose this idea. The mayor should not be hamstrung by the assembly. It is an obvious overreach and abuse of the assembly's power and should not be passed.

Name: Becky Bitzer

Date/Time Submitted: 9/26/2021 9:03:09 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L.

Testimony: To the Anchorage Assembly: || I am writing in support of Ordinance 2021-91 regarding public health and safety measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our hospitals are overwhelmed like they have not been before and COVID infections are at an all time high in our community. The CDC reports that mask use is effective at preventing the spread of COVID-19 and the Alaska Department of Public Health's report on Anchorage's previous restrictions showed masking, gathering limitations and capacity restrictions eased capacity issues at hospitals and prevented deaths by slowing the spread of the infection. Additionally, the State's report found that after EO 13, which mandated masks, masking did increase in public settings, making this ordinance a viable option to increase masking in public settings. We are now, perhaps more than ever, at a time when action is needed. || Please pass AO 2021-91 for the protection of our healthcare workers and community. || Thank you, || Becky Bitzer

Name: Virginia Baldiviez

Date/Time Submitted: 9/26/2021 10:13:40 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 2021-91

Testimony: It is imperative that we have a mask mandate at this critical time in the pandemic. Put your politics aside and do what is right for our community and our state. Too many people are sick and dying needlessly. I blame irresponsible politicians who are pretending there's nothing more they can do, when they actually haven't done anything at all. Initiating a mask mandate is the least you can do. Let's get it done now.

Name: Kathryn Yoder

Date/Time Submitted: 9/26/2021 10:24:50 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: We need the Assembly to step in and provide the leadership that is sadly lacking from the Governor and Mayor Bronson. | For the sake of our community, vote in favor of this ordinance and issue an emergency mask | Mandate. We are depending on you to stand up to the anti-mask anti-vax minority who are endangering our children. | | Thank you.

Name: Mike Soik

Date/Time Submitted: 9/26/2021 10:24:51 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I oppose the proposed ordinance AO No. 2021-91 and I ask that you vote against it. The Assembly has no right or authority to mandate I use any medical product. Telling businesses who they may let into their store is discriminatory and violates the Alaska Constitution. It is time that we come to the realization that Covid-19 is a terrible virus and no ordinance or mandate is going to change how the virus moves through the population. The Assembly and Municipality should be providing the public with the best information about the virus and all medical options so people can make the best choices for themselves. | Thank you | Mike Soik

Name: Beth Sherwood

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 8:57:40 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91, page 9.

Testimony: I would like the municipality of Anchorage to bring back the indoor mask mandate to protect our children, elderly, and citizens of Anchorage. We need to keep safe and help our health care system and masks help.

Name: Kimberly Hays

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 10:19:43 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14L

Testimony: Dear Assembly members, | | I am writing today to express my strong support for the proposed ordinance related to treating the COVID-19 pandemic as the serious threat to public health that it is. | | Wearing a mask is such a small ask of individuals in our community to show that we care for one another. In my family of 5, not a single one of us including my three young children have any issues wearing their masks dutifully and two of them have asthma. I have confirmed with their pediatrician that mask wearing is actually beneficial to their condition as COVID could have severe impacts to both of them. They have never once complained or expressed the inability to breathe. Sometimes, they come home from school and have forgotten they are still wearing them! If only the adults of our community could act accordingly. | | I hear a lot of talk about freedom these days from people who don't seem to understand it in context. I would like to reference Sen. Peter Micciche's remarks when he was supporting the Clean Air legislation, ending smoking in public spaces statewide: ""Your freedom to swing your fist ends when you hit my nose."" Mitigating the effects of COVID through common sense measures is ironically the only solution to a return to extended freedom. If you are unwilling to make small, safe sacrifices for the good of society, of our community, you aren't fighting for freedom. You are the reason so many of us must continue to mask up, even those of us who are vaccinated. You are the reason that the full reopening must be delayed. | | I applaud the members who proposed this ordinance. Thank you for taking your duty to protect public health seriously. | | Thank you, | | Kim Hays | Anchorage, AK

Name: Kate Schenker

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 11:21:52 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: Anchorage Assembly Members, || Thank you for giving the public the opportunity to send in testimony today on Ordinance No. AO 2021-91. I am highly opposed to the assembly enforcing any mandate to include mask mandates for all anchorage residences and further the assembly requiring businesses to remove or compel people from their premises who do not have a mask on. Compel is defined as ""bring about (something) by the use of force or pressure."" So, it would appear that this assembly is encouraging businesses to forcefully remove people that do not comply with wearing a mask in their establishment. This kind of thing is indicative of Nazi Germany. I cannot believe this type of behavior is even being ""considered"" let alone mandated by any governing body let alone with the Anchorage Municipal Assembly. || The Assembly is using the CDC recommendations as the basis for the mask mandate. The CDC has been inconsistent with their requirements from the beginning, just look at their website. Not to mention has consistently provided inaccurate COVID case numbers to the public. How can we possibly trust the COVID case numbers when we know that hospitals get paid when they diagnose a patient with COVID? Where are the flu case numbers? Did the flu just disappear and now everything is considered COVID? Why isn't this being questioned? || Let's talk about mask mandates for a moment. First off, masks do not appear to be mandated for all classes of people. Case in point current in-door gatherings of Hollywood elites and in-door gatherings of politicians. However, our children are required to wear masks all day at school. Tell me again how this is about health and safety when not all ""classes"" of people are required to wear masks in indoor gatherings and why isn't this being questioned? Secondly, if my mask works why then would I care if someone else wears a mask? If mine works I'm protected, right? Finally, enforcing a mask mandate across Anchorage and forcing businesses to physically remove people who do not comply will further divide the people of Anchorage and destroy small business and I can't help but wonder if this isn't the hidden desire of certain people. || I have a hard time believing that wearing a mask is about health and safety when during my travel in May of 2021 as I was getting on the plane, I was wearing a thick cloth mask that was snug to my face, the message on the mask said ""Faith over Fear"". The stewardess gave me a very thin black cloth mask which was loose on my face, not snug at all, it had openings on either side of my mouth. Now, if the purpose of a mask is to keep my germs from getting onto others, then the thick cloth mask would have been way more effective, so why was I then encouraged to wear the thin black mask that wasn't snug and couldn't by any stretch of the imagination keep germs from being shared? Why isn't this being questioned? || Our elected Mayor has clearly stated that he doesn't feel masks should be mandated in Anchorage. In fact, this was a primary reason for him being elected. Instead of causing more strife and division with enforcing masks on the people of Anchorage that prove not to be effective anyway, this Assembly should try to work together with the Mayor and his administration to strengthen Anchorage's economy and get our city back on track. || Each individual has the right to determine if they wish to wear a mask to protect themselves from getting a flu bug or any other type of virus. As I stated I do not believe wearing a mask is about keeping anyone healthy as it is more about controlling and oppressing the people. For the sake of our city, our economy and our freedom please do not enforce this or any other mandate on the people of Anchorage.

Name: Suzanne Lukin

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 12:11:47 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: I fully support AO2021-91. As a health care worker I believe masks or face coverings are necessary indoors to keep everyone safe. |

Name: Brandon Welsh

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 12:13:29 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I oppose the mask mandate

Name: Matt Davis

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 12:23:09 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I oppose any mask mandate. It has proven in effective.

Name: David Hernandez

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 1:26:44 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14. L

Testimony: Dear assembly members, I strongly oppose this mask mandate and ask that you vote no. We are already seeing our numbers come down (per ARH) and putting a needless mask mandate in place is a waste of time for this body of representatives to spend their time discussing. Also, neither this assembly nor any municipal department or personnel has ever presented any evidence that masks are useful in slowing or stopping the spread of any contagion, let alone a virus. The assembly has however, been presented (multiple times over the last year and a half) with peer-reviewed studies from reputable sources showing that masks are useless and even potentially dangerous. Furthermore, many Anchorage dwellers are already voluntarily donning their masks, so why don't we continue to allow people to make their own decisions about their health and move on with our lives. Putting such a mandate in place would also only divide our city more than it already is, at a time when we should all be coming together to find a way forward, instead of trying to draw lines in the sand. In my personal opinion it would be foolish to attempt to put such a mandate in place. I encourage all of you to vote this ordinance down. But, if not, I can assure you that the people of Anchorage will remember those who allowed freedom to reign, and those who stood for tyranny.

Name: Wyatt White

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 1:39:00 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I'd like to voice my support for a mask mandate for public indoor settings & crowded outdoor events. || I don't want to go on too long, but having seen the vitriol from certain members of community and the Assembly itself against taking basic precautions to protect our community is frustrating. I have worked in hospitals for the majority of 2020 and know many who still do, the people there are doing their best to keep our sick alive, and the fact that a vocal minority call them liars and cheats is downright depressing given what many of these healthcare workers are putting on the line to try and help. || I hope this will pass smoothly and we can start to control our COVID numbers once again. Masks and Vaccines are not for democrats or republicans, they're protective measures based on the best available science.

Name: Rachelle Griffitts

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 3:35:47 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No.2021-91

Testimony: Hello Anchorage Assembly members, | Public Testimony to be included on record for the Assembly meeting to be held Tuesday, September 28th, 2021 at 5:00PM Alaska Standard Time | | In regards to AO No. 2021-91 | | I am against imposing a mask mandate on the Anchorage residents. Governor Dunleavy is against imposing mask mandates and pushing vaccines on people who do not want to get it. | Also, Mayor Bronson of Anchorage echoes the same stance as Governor Dunleavy. With those top leaders of Alaska supporting choice how about you support freedom and the freedom to choose whether or not to wear a medical device or be inoculated. | You have heard my sources before. | It is time to end this dance. | We the people are done. | Choose the right way, not the way of little men who found themselves in a position of power. | WE WILL NOT COMPLY!!!! | Warmest Regards, | Rachelle | | Rachelle L. Griffitts | Anchorage Resident

Name: Chris Wightman

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 3:36:08 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am writing to implore the assembly to enact masking mandates as outlined in AO 2021-91. We are at crisis levels of transmission in our community with dire impact already happening in our hospital system. We are Alaskans, we support each other in times of need. Right now our hospitals and their medical providers are in dire need of our help. Mask mandates work and are proven effective at reducing transmission rates. || Thank you.

Name: Beth Abisor

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 3:38:35 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 (Agenda item 14.L)

Testimony: To the members of the Anchorage Assembly, I vehemently oppose AO 2021-91 (with or without an S version), which would change municipal law to require masking in all indoor spaces as well as selective outdoor spaces. A mask mandate will not provide significant benefit to the community. The assumed benefit does not outweigh the documented negative impacts of mandatory face masking. At this point, we know that face coverings are most effective as a psychological self-soothing tool for those who are terrified of becoming ill - similar to the use of a pacifier for infants. Public face coverings are like using a screen door on a submarine when it comes to Covid mitigation, especially as the virus mutates and newer strains have substantially higher viral loads. Requiring face coverings for the public will increase risky behavior from compliant individuals (i.e., disregard other prevention measures such as social distancing and limiting social contact), desensitize non-compliant individuals to breaking municipal laws, discriminate against populations who cannot safely wear face coverings, and traumatize children. The primary issue in our community is not out of control Covid - it is a hospital staff shortage. That is a significant problem. Mandatory masking will not result in the hiring of additional staff. Firing hospital staff for refusing a vaccination during the staffing shortage is extremely detrimental to our community. Governor Dunleavy's actions to bring over 400 health care providers to Alaska is a real-world solution to this problem - not mandatory masking. People are free to use face coverings if they believe it will be of benefit to them IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER PREVENTATIVE MEASURES. Mandating masking gives the false impression that it is the most effective means of prevention, when really the use of face coverings by the general public is one of the most ineffective means of prevention. Other more effective mitigation strategies should include: -physical distancing and limiting physical contact with people outside your home. -staying home when ill - Assembly member Dunbar provided a great learning opportunity for the public when he attended work-sessions and a senior citizen bbq in person (8/19/21) while ill instead of staying home. He took advantage of being able to wear a mask instead of following good health hygiene and illness prevention protocol to stay home while exhibiting contagious symptoms. -Telework when possible -Thorough hand washing -Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth (subconsciously increased by use of face masks) -Increase ventilation in indoor spaces - opening windows to decrease aerosol build-up in indoor spaces is substantially more effective for Covid prevention than the use of face coverings in unventilated spaces. Masking facts: -Masking has "limited benefit." That's the nice way of saying the majority of face coverings available to the general public do not work. -Masks for the general public provide almost no filtration: When used perfectly under ideal conditions (i.e., at its absolute best): --cloth masks provide 10% filtration --paper masks provide 12% filtration --real N95 masks (i.e., not the counterfeit products from China purchased through Amazon) provide 45% filtration. These are usually only available to medical professionals. Appropriate use by the public would be expensive, difficult to obtain, and cause a shortage for our health care workers. --Bandanas and buffs aerosolize larger droplets, which is worse than not wearing a mask at all. *If condoms only had a 12% pregnancy prevention rate, people would use alternate forms of birth control instead and would NEVER choose condoms as their sole means of protection. Use of face masks promote risky public behavior: The general public believes masks are more effective than they really are, which means they are engaging in risky behavior because they falsely believe they are well protected by their masks. I have witnessed people hug, kiss, and socialize within arm's length only because they were wearing masks. People

wear them incorrectly by exposing their noses and or mouths, wearing them throughout the day in multiple public places, touching them constantly, and wearing ill-fitting masks with large gaps for increased airflow. By instituting a mask mandate, you are encouraging the false belief in face-covering efficacy which in turn encourages irresponsible behavior by the public. || There is a plethora of studies and data showing that masking does not have a statistically significant effect against Covid infections. Here are a few for you to ignore: | <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M20-6817> | https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article | <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0240287> | <https://escipub.com/irjph-2021-08-1005/> | | In many states and countries, the use of mandatory face coverings has actually led to an increase in Covid infection rates. This has been documented in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain, the UK, California, and Hawaii. Locations without increases in cases often occurred because the mask mandate was implemented when Covid spikes were already decreasing. Europe's CDC does not recommend masks in schools for children under 12 years of age. | | Face coverings/masking can be harmful. | -Side effects can include difficulty breathing, headaches, and skin rashes | -Detrimental to psychological/mental health | -Inhalation of chlorine compounds in polyester masks and other chemicals to treat fabrics such as formaldehyde | -Prolonged single mask usage results in the buildup for harmful bacteria that can cause pneumonia, meningitis, antibiotic-resistant bacteria, etc. Additional pathogens (less dangerous) found inside long-wear masks (i.e., typical public and child use) can cause fever, ulcers, acne, yeast infections, periodontal disease, etc. | -Dentists note ""Mask Mouth"" leads to increases in gum disease, tooth decay, and other oral health conditions. | -Disproportionately discriminates against and negatively impacts populations with other disorders or health impairments: | --people with hearing impairment | --people with neurodiverse conditions (i.e., ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, etc.) | --people with sensory integration disorder | --people with mental health disorders (i.e., anxiety, depression, PTSD, etc.) | --people who are survivors of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse | | Mandating masks is not only ignorant, but dangerous. It is tyrannical and reminiscent of 1930's Germany. Mandating masks serve as the most visual sign of blind compliance to arbitrary rules. As to Assembly member Zaletal's secret amendment to turn neighbors into compliance reporters, this form of social control has been tried in socialist and communist nations, such as the Soviet Union, Germany, North Korea, Cuba, and China. We should not aspire to behave like evil empires. | | | Respectfully, | Beth Abisor

Name: Terri Norene

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 3:42:30 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91, Sept 28 Public Hearing

Testimony: To the Municipality of Anchorage Assembly members: | Everyone is aware of Covid-19 prevention measures. The public knows this as well as symptoms of Covid-19, when to test, how long to isolate, risks associated with Covid, treatments for Covid that may keep you from getting really sick, those at higher risk of hospitalization and death, but also its high recovery rate. | The US Mortality rate is 1.6 as reported on September 27, 2021 in the United States Covid-19 Statistics <https://covidusa.net> In same report, Alaska's mortality rate is currently: 0.5%. | Covid, like the seasonal influenza, and other dangers of the world are obstacles we individually should make good choices about how to mitigate. Let citizens choose to wear a mask or not. We do not need government overreach and dictatorship to mandate masks on us. | As in CDC guidance <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>, When You've Been Fully Vaccinated | CDC notes masks are a "choice" for those who have been fully vaccinated. Not to mention many have natural immunity after recovering from Covid-19, as cited by National Institutes of Health, NIH, <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/lasting-immunity-found-after-recovery-covid-19>. | Our Anchorage Assembly should stop trying to force mask mandates upon the people it serves. Nor should it pit "neighbor against neighbor", Anchorage voters do not want this. Anchorage voters deserve freedom and liberties. Anchorage voters want a great and healthy community. Let the Anchorage voters do the right thing. |

Name: Meghan Holtan

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 3:56:17 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91, 14 L

Testimony: Hi Assembly Members, I just returned from a visit to my family in Western New York. What a breath of fresh air to be in a place that isn't living in constant uncertainty about its economy, schools and health care system due to a pandemic that has been contained in many places around the world. The solution to COVID-19's rise in our region are vaccinations and masking in public places. It requires so little of individuals to mask when they are in public places and the benefit to individuals and the community is great. Western New York is not so different from Southcentral Alaska. Both have a central city, Buffalo and Anchorage, that anchor a larger rural economy. There is also snow, cold winters and many people who say what they think. The voting trends are similar too. However, Erie County, where Buffalo is, and where I was staying this summer, has a current case count of 25 per 100,000 per day, positive tests are below 5% and hospitals are operating as usual. Anchorage, as you know, is more than five times that rate at 140 cases per 100,000 per day. (Covid Act Now). While both places have increased rates since the summer lows in July, Erie County is increasing much slower. Why? Vaccinations and masks. Erie County's vaccination rate is only slightly higher than Anchorage's, at around 64% compared to Anchorage's 61% (first doses). Right now the Anchorage assembly has the opportunity to take the first step towards bringing our cases counts down and life back to something resembling normal with a relatively simple intervention. Please pass a mask mandate in indoor public places. | Thank you, | Meghan Holtan

Name: JOSE LUNA

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 4:01:48 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14 L, AO 2021-91

Testimony: Dear Assembly members and public, | I have been an intensive care doctor in Anchorage for more than 10 years and have seen periods of higher sickness and admissions intermittently through the years, and stress on our healthcare system, including the H1N1 pandemic. What we are dealing with now is way worse and more concerning, the trajectory is in the wrong direction. The shortage of nurses is not a new problem. Even before the pandemic started there was need for nurses nationwide. They have been working more than what they should for years. It is a hard job and it is a difficult job. It is made harder now having to deal with more than their limit, and having to do it in a social environment of abuse and suspicion. It is a crisis right now, but how the general public, leaders and politicians act will determine if it becomes a catastrophe. I don't like someone telling me what to do either, but I am willing to sacrifice some comforts if it helps prevent severe disease and death from increasing further. I do not like wearing a mask every day, all day long, but it helps protect me and my family and protect you when you need my help. It is not as expensive as other measures and it clearly helped last year. I would have expected by now that everyone would wear a mask on their on terms given how obviously in danger we are and have been for weeks. It is not a moment to panic but to take action. I support this ordinance because it will prevent regret and pain, and the quicker we implement it, the less damage there will be. I like that it has specific definitions of when and why it's being implemented and when to stop the enforcement. This will help. It is not going to prevent all infections or all deaths; a multi prong approach with support from all public SERVANTS would be even more effective, but we will take what we can. I support the physicians that are present at the assembly meeting. They visit in good faith, knowing that their news is bad and hard to hear, specially if you have already made up your mind about what to believe. Their and my incentives are to prevent you or one of your loved ones from getting ill or dying. Take them seriously, please.

Name: Robin Lutz

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 4:09:08 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO-2021-91

Testimony: My name is Robin Lutz, and I am the Executive Director of the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association, or the Four A's. The Four A's has been open since the mid-1980's here in Anchorage, and I have been working in HIV care and prevention for almost 20 years. |The Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association strongly supports AO-2021-91. These basic public health measures are the key to keeping our community healthy - including our community members living with HIV, or other conditions that compromise immune systems. The science is very clear on COVID-19 prevention - we know that masking is effective, just like we know that vaccination is effective. Anchorage deserves public health measures that will benefit our entire community. Please pass AO-2021-91 and help keep our city's most vulnerable people healthy. ||Thank you,||Robin Lutz, MPH

Name: Erika Ammann

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 4:15:16 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: I would like to write in support of a mask mandate during the spike incases seen in our state. This mandate will be a low effort, sensible way to improve the safety of our people.

Name: Robin Lutz

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 4:53:20 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO-2021-91

Testimony: My name is Robin Lutz, and I live in West Anchorage. My 3 year old attends a local preschool, and I have been working in public health for over 20 years. I'm writing as a constituent because Anchorage needs leadership right now that will support the health of our community, and rely on science and data. Our hospitals are overwhelmed, we are #1 in the nation for new infections, and we don't have to be. We have the tools to slow the spread of the delta variant, we just need our leadership to implement those tools. The science has shown me that the way I can lower my own risk of severe COVID infection is to get vaccinated and wear a mask- I have done those things for my health, and the health of my child, who is too young to be eligible for the vaccine. But I have also done those two things for the health of my community. The science is clear, the message from our medical professionals across the city is clear - please pass this ordinance. Unless we work together, under leadership that embraces public health, we will continue to watch preventable illnesses and deaths occur. ||Thank you,||Robin Lutz |

Name: Laken Viotto

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 5:30:47 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO-2021-91(S); An Ordinance of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly Regarding Public Health and Safety Measures for the COVID-19 Pandemic

Testimony: September 9/27/2021 | | To Whom It May Concern: | | I am writing today to express my concerns with the proposed citizen led enforcement provision led by Assembly person Meg Zaletel (AO-2021-91(S); An Ordinance of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly Regarding Public Health and Safety Measures for the COVID-19 Pandemic). In my opinion this will cause even more community separation & will be even more economically damaging. As a community we are already split, politically yes, but even more so with the push of taking away free choice & our freedoms. | | I personally work from home, I do my due diligence of keeping to myself when out in public spaces for groceries & supplies. I am mindful of those around me & keep things sanitized. I know the virus is very real, I had it back in November of 2020. I was lucky to have only had a couple of ""bad"" days & nothing too extreme for symptoms. My husband was in the same house hold, quarantining from work but he never ""caught"" it. We did not separate, as we had already spent most of the week before my results came back. He tested 6 times during the 14 days and never once did he get a positive result. I do not think that having the public ""police"" a mask mandate is going to solve the COVID-19. I don't think that the COVID will go away, I think it is much like the flu virus & will continue to mutate & everchange. On an economic stand, I think it will only cause more turmoil for & between, businesses and neighbors alike. We don't need more negativity, we need more togetherness - maybe not physically but as a community. I feel like we are falling apart, everyone turning against each other is not helpful. | | Most of my family & friends are vaccinated - and rightfully so, it's their choice. I know there are a lot of people that are scared out there, because unfortunately the vaccine does not fully protect you from this virus and masks that are thin/worn improperly do not cause enough protection. | | Thank you for your time, it's much appreciated. If I need to be reached please email me at lakenmsolseng@hotmail.com | |

Name: Jenny Iwinski

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 5:51:50 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am writing in opposition to AO 2021-91 for the use of Medical grade masks mandated to the general public of Anchorage. I strongly feel the assembly is outside their given power to enact such measures. I agree we are in a difficult time in the pandemic, but mandating policies will not be widely followed at this point. The more power of choice you take from the citizens of Anchorage, the more you will receive push back. We are tired of your tyrannical practices, and many do not support these measures. I ask that you allow the public to make their own decisions with our liberties. If there are people uncomfortable with being in public without a mask, let them wear one. If there are people that would rather stay home, let them. There is no need to mandate the public further on your forced wishes. You are a legislative body that was initially brought together to make non partisan decisions that bring our community together, all the while the 11 of you could not bring us further apart, and are furthering that by attempting to enact these useless mandates. As the Preamble of the AMC states, We, the people of Anchorage, in order to eliminate waste and duplication in government, to achieve common goals, to support individual rights, to form a more responsive government, and to secure maximum local control of local affairs, hereby establish this Charter. AO 2021-91 is so far from the guides of the Charter, and so far from the will of the people, I urge you to vote No.

Name: Nicole Fliss

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 6:11:37 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-84

Testimony: I oppose this ordinance. I am in support of banning all types of plastic shopping bags; and therefore, the current ban should continue.

Name: Alaska School Nurses Association

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 6:15:00 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: A02021-91

Testimony: The Alaska School Nurses Association is issuing the following formal statement: ||The Alaska School Nurses Association (ASNA) is in support of COVID-19 vaccines and masking in public places. The ASNA believes that all eligible and able Alaskans should get vaccinated against COVID-19. As community healthcare professionals, we believe it is our duty and responsibility to encourage all Alaskans to be vaccinated, if able to do so. School nurses and all medical professionals in our state should use evidence-based, scientific research to educate and inform our citizens of the choices regarding individual and public health. Many of the students in our schools are not yet able to be vaccinated (under age 12), and as advocates for these and all vulnerable populations, we ask for community support. ||We ask communities with high rates of COVID-19 transmission to wear masks in public settings to help protect Alaskans from the spread of COVID. School Nurses believe that masking is a non-invasive strategy that can and should be implemented to help stop the increased spread of COVID all over Alaska. Vaccines and the use of masking have been proven to reduce morbidity, mortality, and the burden on our hospital systems. School Nurses believe our communities should follow the guidance given by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services so we can lessen the spread of COVID now. ||Schools reflect the communities they serve, and our schools are not free from the surge of COVID happening throughout our state. School Nurses believe that with proper mitigation (in addition to universal masking and vaccines) we can help keep our children in school and healthy. We encourage all Alaska school districts to have layered mitigation strategies in place and require universal masking in the school setting until this spread minimizes substantially. ||The Alaska School Nurses Association calls on all Alaskans to wear masks in public settings, wash hands, avoid large gatherings, get vaccinated, stay home if you are ill, get tested, and follow isolation and quarantine guidelines set out by public health. School Nurses stand together with our nurse colleagues and hospital staff as well as our school staff by asking you to put in place the needed masking requirement and guidance for our community. School Nurses are strongly against the politicization of the worldwide pandemic and ask for your action now. We are calling on all leadership in our communities and state, as well as all Alaskans, to do their part to help stop the spread of COVID in Alaska. School nurses affirm the words of our chief medical officer, Dr. Anne Zink - 'We are stronger together.' ||The Alaska School Nurses Association ||September 27th, 2021

Name: Nicole Fliss

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 6:16:49 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91(S)

Testimony: I am in support of this ordinance.

Name: Margie MacNeille

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 6:24:47 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: I support passage of this ordinance. It is a proven, low-impact step towards mitigating the covid-19 disaster in our city. It is also the step you the Assembly can take to save lives and misery. Please do not shirk the responsibility you have towards your constituents and your community, and votes yes. Thank you for your courage and perseverance if you do. || Margie MacNeille | Anchorage Hillside

Name: Su Chon

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 7:27:33 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: A mask mandate is a very simple act we as a community can adhere to in order to protect each other and keep our community at large safe. It's sad that wearing a mask is such a huge debate. If you can wait in lines, sneeze into a sleeve, and mind your manners, then you can wear a mask temporarily until we as a country can get this COVID situation under control. Protect your loved ones and your family, wear a mask. Thank you to the assembly for taking action and bringing forward the mask mandate again as we grapple with another wave of COVID cases.

Name: Kerry Brown

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 7:31:09 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Proposed Mask Ordinance

Testimony: I am asking the Assembly to pass the mask ordinance. As a parent, living in a shared condo building, my child cannot walk out the door without wearing a mask. She is too young to get the vaccination yet. I work in the schools, and I promise you that the students there, all under the age of 13, some as young as 5, have no problem wearing masks. Alaska is #1 in the world in Covid per 100,000 people. Please don't let our children have to bear the danger of this burden. We can do this.

Name: Lynne' Langevin-Doran

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 7:55:33 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91,Mask mandate ordinance to wear masks in public places

Testimony: In an effort to be brief - I am 100% in support of a mask mandate. It is common sense, even if it only helps prevent the virus from spreading by a small percentage it is worth it and is something we can all do for the greater good. There has neve been such an uproar for the rule ""No Shirt No Shoes No Service"" so why is wearing a mask an infringement on a persons basic rights. Our government should be leading us on common sense actions we should all be taking. MANDATE MASK WEARING IN PUBIC!

Name: Amber Allen

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 8:05:10 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 and AO 2021-91(S)

Testimony: You will NOT be supporting the people you represent if you vote for mask mandates!
|NO to masks!

Name: Ellen Twiname

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 8:07:41 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L AO 2021-91

Testimony: I absolutely support a mask mandate. I'm horrified at how out of control Covid 19 is in Alaska right now. It seems like all the masking and social distancing that we did last year worked and kept the hospitals from getting overloaded. Now Covid is even worse than last year but we are missing out on taking any precautions. Please vote yes to require masks. I also support requiring proof of vaccination at music venues, theaters, schools, and other crowded places. Thank you!

Name: Sean Jojes

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 8:19:03 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: I am a 40 year alaska resident with two small children and I want Anchorage leadership to have some guts and so the right thing to stem the loss of life from this pandemic. Push the mask mandate. The constitution doesn't guarantee the right to be reckless or require we give equal weight to the input of the ignorant. Do the right think and let's make the mask mandate happen, now.

Name: Eric Steinfort

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 8:23:31 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 2021-91

Testimony: Whereas the Covid-19 delta variant has accelerated Alaska into one of the highest risk states in the country for this virus, | |Whereas Anchorage contains the densest population of the state of Alaska, | |Whereas our elected Mayor has not responded appropriately to this increase of the pandemic's infection rate in our state's densest city, | |Whereas Anchorage's hospitals have been declared in crisis status by the state's governor due to this pandemic's rapid changes, | |Whereas the majority of the population of Anchorage has not displayed appropriate behavior on their own accord such as masking in public indoor places since the delta variant has surged, | |Whereas masking nose and mouth in public has a known positive affect on decreasing the transmission of the covid-19 delta variant virus, | |I support measures to allow for mandates requiring masks be worn over nose and mouth while in public places as seen fit by those qualified medical professionals advising the assembly in such matters. | |I support such legislation that will allow mandates to be enforced or relaxed as seen necessary by the same qualified medical professionals advising the assembly. | |Sincerely, | |Eric Steinfort | Girdwood resident of 15+ years | PO Box 762 | Girdwood, AK

Name: Jessica Willis

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 8:23:44 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Good evening Anchorage Assembly Members and Mayor Bronson. | I am a first/second grade teacher in the ASD. I, along with my students, have worn masks successfully EVERY DAY since we re-entered our school on January 19, 2021. Not one of us has complained -- not even once -- about having to wear a mask. I teach all day with a mask on. My students read, write, do math, science, social studies, music, indoor P.E., library and art with masks on, and with masks fully covering their mouths and noses. They know they are helping to keep themselves and each other safe, EVERY day. They know this is what keeps them in school to learn during this ongoing pandemic. When they take masks off to eat, they use a shield to protect their germs from traveling to others. If they leave their seat (their shielded area), they willingly put on their masks, without question. They WANT to be in school. I WANT them in school. Wearing masks, along with the ongoing washing of hands, using hand-sanitizer, and social distancing, has kept us in school. This has helped us come together EVERY day to learn and grow (academically, socially, and emotionally.) | Knowing Alaska's current COVID statistics is VERY DISHEARTENING. We CAN change these statistics. We can become a healthy state once again. Masks work. Mask mandates work. Washing hands often works. Social distancing works. With city-wide (state-wide) mask mandates, our hospitals will once again be able to provide exceptional care to ALL Alaskans when needed. | Don't every one of us deserve the right to be healthy, keep each other safe, and to do what is right for the greater good of ALL Alaskans? | Please mandate masks once again. | I thank you kindly for your time. |

Name: Cecilia Mendonsa

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 8:33:10 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am in support of |The mask mandate.

Name: Melissa Presler

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 8:39:28 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: Please enforce a mask mandate. People are dying, hospitals are full and I don't feel safe going out in the public or to work. I have an autoimmune disease and worried all the time.

Name: Jennifer Huvar

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 8:55:05 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14L

Testimony: I support the passage of AO2021-91. Mask mandates are effective in slowing the spread of covid19. We have experienced this in Anchorage. My personal choice to wear a mask protects others, but I'm not protected when most others are not masked. I therefore have been avoiding going into businesses during our current surge. A mask mandate protects our hospitals and our businesses. It's not overly-dramatic to say mask mandates save lives. Thank you.

Name: Danalee Jackson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 9:11:16 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I don't agree that it is the government's place to mandate the wearing of masks. Often times, when the government oversteps their boundary in the name of emergency or public safety, they rarely relinquish their newfound power. Last year demonstrated that the shutdowns and government overstep did nothing to stop the spread of COVID, but only increased mental illness, unemployment, and economic instability in the wake of this terrible virus. Please don't push to strip the great people of Anchorage from our precious freedoms.

Name: Darrell Rice

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 9:13:54 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: If you were going to enforce mask mandate to the public then it should be a state mandate and not the businesses job to enforce your job. This is going to create static and friction to the customers and the businesses. I believe this is a poor choice. Make the mandate or leave it don't put it upon the businesses.

Name: Sierra Smith

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 9:37:42 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: This is ridiculous get rid of the masks. We are never going to get over this if you leave them on. You can't force private businesses to mask up or lose their license, that's wrong it's their business and if the customers want to where masks so be it but it's shouldn't be forced.

Name: Jeffery Mayfield

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 9:39:52 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Hello and thank you for giving me the opportunity to write to you. || My name is Jeffery Mayfield and I am the proud husband of a local doctor and the father of an elementary age student. I write this of my own accord and not at the direction of anyone else. || I could go into many long details and present fact and data, however most of you already know and have seen the overwhelming scientific evidence that I would cite. At this point, if you do not believe in the efficacy of masking or vaccines, it is due to a will-full ignorance or a hardlined alignment to someone you want to further your political career. || Instead I will plead with you. Because that is all I have left. Pass AO-2021-91. Pass this to take even the smallest action to protect my wife. Pass this to protect my son. Pass this to protect the people of Anchorage who you have sworn to serve. Please. You know the science. You know the facts. Pass this with a majority that is veto proof. || Thank you again. | Please do what is right. || Jeffery Mayfield

Name: Toni Groves

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 9:46:53 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Business safety during Covid

Testimony: I believe we as individuals need to provide a mask if we feel it warrants one! I know this is not a violation of my rights it is about protecting one another! Protecting one another is a human trait! I also believe we as individuals need to make intelligent decisions!

Name: Amanda Chriswell

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 9:51:06 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Dear assembly, |First, I would like to thank you for all of your hard work. Next, I would like to express my full support of a mask and social distancing mandate for the municipality of Anchorage. Alaska is a national embarrassment at this point in terms of COVID. Our hospitals are at the breaking point. I understand the concern for the city's economy. My concern is for the health of the citizens. We need guidance from our leaders, or things will just keep getting worse. Please help to protect our most vulnerable and give some possible relief to our hospitals. Thank you.

Name: kristin moser

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 9:52:52 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: Dear Anchorage Assembly member and Mayor Bronson, |I am an Anchorage resident who lives in the Taku neighborhood. I am writing to you about the mask mandate ordinance. I am against this ordinance. We are created to show our faces to each other. We are created to show expression and compassion with our faces. This mask ordinance is oppressive and isolating. It is dehumanizing our city. There are studies that show that masks don't work. Social distancing and washing our hands on a regular basis works. I enjoy my constitutional liberties. I do not think we should bend to what Washington DC says and does. I plead with you to not make Anchorage put their masks back on their faces. The Matsu Valley has gone the whole pandemic without masks and they are respecting the freedom of choice and free will. I know there are many that continue to wear their masks in every situation. That is their choice, please do not push their choices on the rest of us. I'm asking that you use wisdom and sound mind for this decision. Please may we continue offering effective treatment and testing. Please continue to offer vaccine to those who want to receive it. Please continue to offer monoclonal antibodies for those who need treatment. We need to fight with our voice for freedom without putting a mask over our mouths. We need to move forward in the fight against COVID, not go backwards and mask up. |Thank you for your time |Kristin Moser

Name: John Delapp

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 9:53:06 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Masking ordinance

Testimony: I would like to speak in support of the Assembly's proposed masking ordinance. It is a small inconvenience which will reduce the spread of Covid-19 and reduce hospitalizations and mortality within the municipality.

Name: Max Kritzer

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 10:02:42 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am writing in support of AO 2021-91. A mask mandate would help stop the spread of COVID-19, and would make me feel more comfortable to go out and support Anchorage businesses. Thank you.

Name: Jennifer Edwards-Fahl

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 10:03:31 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Hello, and thank you for your time and consideration. As the pandemic reaches new levels of spread and continues to cause our hospitals and health care workers hardship and stress and many lives could be lost due to low hospital capacity, I ask that you support a Municipal wide mask mandate.

Name: Dana Mitchell

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 10:18:13 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14 L

Testimony: I am the Development Director for TBA Theatre as well as an RN who worked in a skilled nursing facility for the first 12 months of the pandemic and now work to support all the SNFs in the state of AK. |I am writing in reference to Section 4 C 17-19 that addresses certain exceptions to the mask mandate. |I am in full support of a mask mandate in response to Alaska's dubious status as the state with the highest COVID rates in the nation. I am also concerned for the theatre companies in town who may have barely weathered the cancellations of their previous seasons and are very much wanting to produce this season. TBA Theatre requires their casts to be vaccinated and we have a zero-tolerance policy for any symptoms. In other words, if a cast member has anything from a sniffle to a stomachache, they may not attend rehearsals and must be tested before they return. They all understand they run the risk of being replaced in the show due to illness. |We will be requiring audiences to wear masks even if the ordinance doesn't pass. In addition, all audience members will be well over 10 feet from cast members. |We have successfully run 2 summer theatre education programs that culminated in 7 separate performances each summer and had no cases during either summer due to our solid mitigation plan. |My concern in the ordinance is the language in lines 17-19 and how those will be interpreted/enforced. We don't want to make the assumption that as written, all performers are included in this exception, but we want to be reassured that, with our mitigation plan, we don't run the risk of being shut down at the last minute either. |Please consider clarifying/expanding on the definition of ""Presenters, musicians, others communicating to an audience"" so that we and other arts organizations can proceed confidently providing an aspect of community engagement that we see people desperately needing and asking for. || Thank you for all you do

Name: Kari MacDonald

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 10:28:53 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L. Anchorage Ordinance 2021-91

Testimony: The primary concern for the Founding Fathers when drafting the Articles of Confederation was ""avoiding the tyranny of a powerful central government"", This ordinance directly attacks what America is founded on. By tackling freedoms of Anchorage citizens through mask mandates especially when there is no scientific proof is pure tyranny. The available scientific evidence shows that masks, whatever their form, provide a poor obstacle to infective organisms but do impede air intake and oxygen exchange. Additionally, as a society we have become so brain dead to wearing masks that people drop them on the street and yet put them back on their faces... the germs these masks collect and are rarely cleaned is providing additional health risks. Prior to Covid and this desire for the government to control every aspect of our lives there were at least twelve articles that appeared in medical and scientific journals showing that face masks do not prevent the transmission of infection. Stop with removing the liberties that we have as Americans. |As a citizen who is concerned about Covid and has been infected by Covid I take this topic especially seriously. As an American who is a mother, wife and professional I own my actions. As Alaska has seen more Covid cases, I have changed my lifestyle to eliminate being in large groups, have seen friends on the trails of this great city, gotten more exercise, focused on what I am consuming and increased vitamin D. We all have personal beliefs, we all have different experiences, unique skill sets and goals; that is what makes us proud Americans and Alaskans. I am a born and raised Alaskan, and raising my own family here. Stop your government overreach, let the next generation be just as great or better than this generation. Stop these oversteps that only hinder our small businesses, our livelihoods, our mental health, our future. This is Alaska... the land of the great frontier... we are better than this. Let freedom reign. |<https://vernoncoleman.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/proof-that-face-masks-do-more-harm-than-good-v2.pdf>

Name: Jordan Poynter

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 10:45:52 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I believe that a mask mandate will be beneficial for local Alaskan businesses. I work in the restaurant industry and have to interact with people all day as part of my job. The restaurant I work at has closed on several occasions this summer due to staff having covid. If a mask mandate was in place we could stop the spread of covid, keep businesses open, and have less overcrowding at our local ICUs. I support the mask mandate.

Name: Steven Kessler

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 10:46:11 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 2021-91 Pandemic Health and Safety Measures

Testimony: Hello Assembly Members (and Mayor Bronson): | I fully support proposed ordinance AO 2021-91, with a few enhancements. | We are at a critical juncture here in Alaska and in the largest community: Anchorage. We need to save people's lives, support our healthcare workers and protect ourselves from the long-term ravages of Covid-19. There are things we can do as a community, including encouraging vaccination and requiring masking and social distancing. Why wouldn't we do these things for the good of all of us ... of society? | Ordinance 2021-91 covers the logical actions for us, as a community, to take. | I have a few specific suggestions to enhance the ordinance. | Section 8. Strike in the first sentence ""requests the Mayor to strongly encourage, through public health communication platforms and on his own behalf as Mayor,"" and replace it with ""directs the Mayor to encourage, through public health communication platforms,"". Rationale: From statements reported in the media attributed to Mayor Bronson, it seems unlikely that from his own volition he would strongly encourage all the items listed in Section 8. Therefore the Assembly must direct the Mayor to do these things for the public health and safety of all of us that live in Anchorage. | Section 9. Modify the last sentence by striking ""The Assembly requests the Mayor issue ..."" and replace it with ""The Assembly directs the Mayor to issue ..."" Rationale: same as for the recommended change in Section 8. | Section 10. My understanding is that a couple of assembly members have modified this wording. I don't have those changes. To me, it seems that there needs to be real enforcement of this Order, particularly where a lack of enforcement affects other's individual right to freedom from disease (health risk). The sentence ""Violation of this Order does not create grounds for residents to harass individuals who do not comply with it"" must be stricken. If I am in a store where an individual is not complying I, and the owner of the store or building manager, must be within our rights to ask individuals to mask up and social distance. The way this is written they could just 'blow you off.' That's just not right and does nothing to coral this deadly virus. | Thank you for reading my comments. | Steve Kessler, 2820 Kempton Hills Drive, Anchorage. |

Name: Devon Rust

Date/Time Submitted: 9/27/2021 11:05:45 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am in favor of the assembly passing AO 91. We need to take action to bring our case numbers down to a sustainable level so that we can keep our schools and businesses open. Masking is an effective public health measure for mitigating community spread of COVID. We cannot continue to simply ignore an unsustainable problem. Please take action. Please pass AO 91. ||Devon Rust|East Anchorage Resident

Name: Rachelle Pessetto

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 12:10:00 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: Assembly Members, || The overall evidence is clear: Standard cloth and surgical masks offer next to no protection against virus-sized particles or small aerosols. The size of a virus particle is much too small to be stopped by a surgical mask, cloth or bandana. A single virion of SARS-CoV-2 is about 60-140 nanometers or 0.1 microns. The pore size in a surgical mask is 200-1000x that size. Consider that the CDC website states, ""surgical masks do not catch all harmful particles in smoke."" And that the size of smoke particles in a wildfire are ~0.5 microns which is 5x the size of the SARS-CoV-2 virus! Wearing a mask to prevent catching SARS-CoV-2, or similarly sized influenza, is like throwing sand at a chain-link fence: it doesn't work. There has been one large randomized controlled trial that specifically examined whether masks protect their wearers from the coronavirus. This study found mask wearing ""did not reduce, at conventional levels of statistical significance, the incidence of Sars-Cov-2-infection."" || There have been hundreds of mask studies related to influenza transmission done over several decades. It is a well-established fact that masks do not stop viruses. ""Part of that evidence shows that cloth face masks actually increase influenza-linked illness."" Bacteria are 50x larger than virus particles. As such, virus particles can enter through the mask pores, yet bacteria remain trapped inside of the mask, resulting in the mask-wearer continually exposed to the bacteria. || All parties mandating the use of face masks are not only willfully ignoring established science but are engaging in what amounts to a whole school clinical experimental trial. This conclusion is reached by the fact that face mask use and COVID-19 incidence are being reported in scientific opinion pieces promoted by the CDC and others. The fact is after reviewing ALL of the studies worldwide, the CDC found ""no reduction in viral transmission with the use of face masks."" || Thank you for continuing to make masks a choice for the citizens of Anchorage. | Rachelle Fisher

Name: JAMES SZENDER

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 12:59:08 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I write in support of Agenda Item 14.L., Ordinance No. AO 2021-91. As a senior citizen with an history of pulmonary issues, the current failure of the MOA to enact any effective mask mandate threatens not only my freedom, but my life. ||To argue that requiring masks in public is some kind of unconstitutional interference with ""personal liberty"" is absurd. We are in the middle of an uncontrolled pandemic, and there is no constitutional right to spread disease. Indeed, a mask requirement has no more effect on liberty than a speed limit or a smoking ban. To argue otherwise is to simply embrace anarchy. ||If the Mayor or any other municipal employee doesn't want to enforce a mask requirement, they should find another job. Public health is one of the most important functions of government, and municipal government in particular, and anyone who doesn't understand that should ask the friends and loved ones of the over 500 Alaskans who have died of Covid-19 in the past 18 months.

Name: Patti Higgins

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 1:28:36 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO_2021-91

Testimony: AO_2021-91 | I urge the members of the Assembly to deliver some much-needed leadership to Anchorage. We are leading the nation in some very bad numbers and while getting vaccinated would be the best solution we need to at least all wear masks. With this much virus we are all in danger, even those vaccinated. Anchorage needs to get back to normal but we have to work at that. Our businesses will continue to suffer and some close until this virus is under control. There are so many people who are afraid to go out. That hurts our economy. | Delta is incredibly powerful. I heard a scientist describe Covid as being as sticky as glue but that Delta was sticky like gorilla glue. Our children are getting sick. Schools are struggling to stay open but parents are terrified. Parents lose either way they go. | We have to end this. Please pass this ordinance, it follows the science.

Name: Lucian Blake

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 3:19:14 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Solutions

Testimony: I don't believe any of the remedies will generate productive peace and performance. However I do believe if we exercise greater flexibility within our routine obligations, we may achieve success. For example instead of teleworking, why not consider rotations throughout the workday or work week. An office of three employees would then grant personnel the option to choose which shift(s) would allow full coverage, even if one of those shifts prompt telework and/or employer extends work hours to compensate. The same applies to recreation or domestic activities. To flex the demands and requirements within any facility or locale, at times has required smarter or greater intensities, durations, and frequencies within a degree(s) of separation. Not comprehensive or concealed exclusions. A classroom for example could have a minimum requirement for attendees which complies with confined space safety of airborne exchanges, and rotates students attendance each day or week in alphabetical order. A manufacturing plant may have to extend work day into evening hours to balance productivity if quotas for social distancing is necessary.

Name: Carrie Lavallee

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 3:45:21 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: As an Anchorage ER nurse that has seen wave after wave of Covid patients fill the hospital and test the physical/emotional limits of healthcare workers, I am writing in support of the mask ordinance. ||Transmission and hospitalizations decrease when mask mandates are implemented, as documented by the CDC and as demonstrated by past Anchorage mandates. ||My ER shifts are now staffed by near-majority travel nurses. This is a direct result of the unabated increase in capacity and rates of hospitalization. ||I show up to my shifts and work overtime to keep my community healthy and alive as we face the cusp of year 2 of the pandemic. Please do your part and decrease transmission through a mask mandate before we lose more nurses to burnout and lose Alaskans to avoidable death or long-term Covid disability. ||Regards,||Carrie Lavallee, MSN, RN||

Name: Denise Callahan

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:34:57 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.1 Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am a Registered Nurse who has worked in a hospital my entire 40 year career, wearing a mask much of the time to protect patients as well as myself. Wearing masks save lives. I totally support a mask mandate that would require all residents to wear masks indoors and outdoors at crowded venues regardless of vaccination status to limit the spread of the Coronavirus.

Name: Jeffrey Stevenson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 5:59:19 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am not for a mask mandate. A mandate is too divisive at this point and believe impossible to enforce. It is overly burdensome to require business to enforce the city's ordinance in a time where can barely provide staffing as it is. | |

Name: Chris Pankratz

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 6:12:42 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 2021-91

Testimony: I am not in favor of a mask mandate. Period!!

Name: Elizabeth McKee

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 6:44:51 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14L. Ordinance AO2021-91

Testimony: Thank you for taking my testimony, and, further, thank you for your service to our community through your participation in the Anchorage Assembly. I appreciate your investment of time and energy. | I work with children under the age of twelve. Twenty five of these lovely young people are in my care each day. I take that responsibility incredibly seriously, and I recognize that my most important job is to keep those children safe. Over my career I have worked to make sure that children are safe from armed intruders, wild animals, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, natural gas leaks, electrical fires, discarded needles, dangerous drivers, physical and sexual abuse, cold weather injuries, bullies and much more. Now I am trying my best to help them stay safe from COVID-19. | Some of the steps I have taken include getting vaccinated against COVID-19, avoiding crowds, using HEPA filters in the space where I work, staying home when I am ill and wearing a mask when I am around unvaccinated people. Wearing a mask is a non-invasive and easy way to ensure that if I am not unwittingly exposing the children I work with to the COVID-19 virus. Sometimes it is uncomfortable or inconvenient, but this pales when I know that I am keeping the children in my care safe. | The preference by some, to remain unmasked, while interacting with the broader community, is dwarfed by the public interest in safely resuming full educational and economic operations across our state. The loud anti-mask minority must not be allowed to continue to endanger public safety. Their behavior is impacting our ability to educate children, to run our businesses, and to care for our most vulnerable. | I strongly encourage the assembly to pass AO2021-91. Masking will help stop the spread of the virus. It has been shown to be an effective strategy. It is low cost and low risk. Mayor Bronson is unwilling to take action. He says he doesn't know what else could be done. But the rest of us know. We know that masking is one excellent and inexpensive tool in this pandemic.

Name: Elizabeth Miller

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 7:19:02 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14L

Testimony: Please vote for mask mandate. It will save lives and our economy.

Name: Robin Marsh

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 7:33:42 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ao2021-91

Testimony: I am a life long Anchorage resident and taxpaying citizen. I am opposed to AO2021-91 that members Zalatel and Peterson are proposing. ||To mask or not mask, to vaccinate or not vaccinate should be a decision made by each individual and their own family or their own business entity. ||Assembly member need to stop acting like doctors and trying to force medical decisions on the citizens of Anchorage. ||In the Assembly meeting on 9-14-21, member Constant waxed poetic after commending firefighter service member.constant tried to say that the Assembly was a life saver just like fire fighters. He said ""we are going to save lives whether or not you want to be saved."" ||So I guess you all are joining the pro life movement now? Let's save the unborn people because of course you don't know yet if they want to be saved. They haven't got their voice yet to tell you. ||The Assembly, as a whole, minus two conservative members, doesn't care about the citizens. The Assembly is power greedy. It is shameful the way you refuse to work with mayor Bronson and undermine his administration. ||No masking mandate!!! ||

Name: Todd Kelley

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 7:54:41 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91S section 3&10.

Testimony: I did my due diligence and got my vaccine. There is a push to get everyone vaccinated therefore, I do not agree with a mask mandate. There should be push to get everyone else onboard with vaccinations including fines and restrictions as a motivator. | I do not agree with the direction of this ordinance.

Name: Sarah Grieb

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 8:07:09 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I strongly support mask mandates. Like many communities, Anchorage looks towards its leadership for guidance. Masks are effective, and we can use this tool to help protect each other. || Given the amount of misinformation and rhetoric surrounding masks, it is critically important for our leadership to send a message. Wearing a mask is an act of humanitarianism and even an act of patriotism. It is a small sacrifice to protect the lives of our fellow citizens. || Please do not equivocate. Please do not apologize for asking us to take a small step that will save our neighbors' lives. A mask mandate is not a tool for imposing your will on us, as some might view it; it is us demanding that our legislative bodies enact laws, regulations, and ordinances that reflect our community values. ||

Name: Aurora Alexander

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 8:08:07 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate for the municipality of Anchorage

Testimony: To the Anchorage Assembly, | | First off I'd like to say thank you very much for accepting my written testimony on the mask mandate proposal for the Municipality of Anchorage. With rapidly rising cases it's essential for this mandate to be passed for the safety of those who live here. At this point in time the healthcare infrastructure of Alaska is at it's limit and nearing it's breaking point. We need to be doing everything we can to help manage case counts and do what has been scientifically proven to reduce the spread of covid by requiring masks indoors and at businesses. Without this mandate, my workplace is refusing to require customers to wear masks and is instead making it optional but highly encouraged. This has lead myself and many of my coworkers to feel very unsafe and at risk while already at a stressful job. Not only this but I have friends and family who are immunocompromised and can't be placed at even further risk just to satisfy some suicidal notion of 'freedom' or 'liberty'. While I will gladly die on the hill that our freedoms are what makes this country so magnificent, we're under a tyranny of the minority who scream louder than the rest about the evils of simply doing their part to help defend and protect this country in a war against this pandemic. These same people will swear up and down that they will gladly die for this country, yet they won't even put up with a minor inconvenience such as a mask or a vaccine to do what needs to be done for the nation? It's hypocrisy. It's insanity. You can't listen to the vocal minority on this matter. Please do the right thing and protect the most vulnerable people of this city and helping heal our overburdened healthcare system by passing this mask mandate.

Name: Amanda Cook

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 8:12:43 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 Masking in MOA

Testimony: Hello Anchorage Assembly members, | | Thanks for taking the time to read my thoughts on the proposed new mask mandate. I strongly oppose the issuing of the proposed mask ordinance. The citizens of Anchorage elected Dave Bronson into office to serve as our mayor, he is representing us and our voices. This is an overreach of government and our freedoms are being violated. I am a fully-vaccinated, mask-wearing citizen but I strongly oppose the enforcement of mask wearing through an ordinance. Just as much as I strongly oppose threatening people's livelihood by mandating vaccines. We are in control of our own bodies and should be free to make that choice. COVID-19 has now become political and our society will pay for those decisions in the long run. | | The newly added section about private enforcement action is very dangerous! You are pitting citizen against citizen, American against American and human against human. This is very reckless behavior and I fear what the consequences could be. We, as humans and Americans, have unalienable rights and this is a violation of them. | | We have seen and experienced enough disunity and division in our country the past few years, please do not add to this epidemic. America has suffered greatly and it is up to us to heal that wound. | | Thank you for hearing my voice, | Amanda Cook | Chugiak

Name: Elizabeth Schultz

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 8:22:34 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: To the Anchorage Assembly, |Based on the continued scientific data showing that the usage of appropriate face masks can decrease the spread of Covid 19, and giving consideration to our high rate of Covid infections in Anchorage at this time, I strongly support any measures that would encourage and mandate the wearing of masks to protect our community. ||This is a common sense strategy for a limited period of time during a global pandemic. Our health workers are asking for strong community action to address the high numbers of Covid cases overwhelming the hospitals and health care facilities. The need for clear and strong directives are needed from elected leaders to slow the spread of this disease so that we can function as a society, care for our ill and vulnerable populations and protect citizens of all ages.

Name: Cara Ewings

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 8:27:29 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO no. 2021-91

Testimony: I do not believe that this ordinance should be passed. Besides trying to compel speech from someone who is not firmly convinced of what he is being told to say (the mayor), evidenced by the fact that he hasn't voluntarily done what the assembly is trying to decree, I believe this ordinance puts an unfair burden on small businesses. If someone wanders through Fred Meyer maskless, most people won't bat an eye because there are so many people there, and they assume there is a reason for lack of mask-wearing. But the lady at the bread store who has plenty of work to do or the guy who is just trying to fix your car would now be required to enforce mask-wearing, at the risk of losing a business license. Realistically, the same is not expected of Carrs or Home Depot, and there really is no other enforcement mechanism contained in this ordinance. Therefore, due to the undue stress it would place on honest people trying to earn a living, this ordinance should not pass. Additionally, it seems wise not to pass an ordinance that is bloated with so much unnecessary verbiage, yet doesn't even allow an exception for blowing one's nose (which isn't solely necessary due to sickness, as the cold can lead to dripping noses).

Name: Mike Ausman

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 8:34:23 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I wish to voice my concern over the mismanagement of the current COVID-19 crisis in Anchorage and encourage you to do the right thing for the citizens of this community and re-instate a mask mandate. The mayor does not take this situation seriously and the people he was elected to serve are paying the consequences. Sadly, as we have seen throughout this pandemic, we can do little to educate those who choose to be misinformed about the dangers of this virus and its cascading effect on the Alaskan populous. Those of us with open eyes, open minds, and open hearts have shouldered the efforts of keeping the virus somewhat in check, but we cannot do it alone. The Delta variant is wreaking havoc on our healthcare infrastructure and we must take action to mandate compassion and basic, non-invasive protective measures against the outbreak. || Yes, there will be resistance and yes, there will likely be hostility. But how many more stories do we have to hear of unvaccinated, ""anti-maskers"" who wish they had taken the virus seriously? And how many more national headlines do we have to see about how bad the current COVID situation in Alaska is? || Take a stand. Be a leader. Do the right thing. ||

Name: Ken Hannam

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 8:41:30 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L

Testimony: Please pass ordinance AO 2021-91(S) regarding COVID 19 measures to be implemented. They are reasonable steps to help mitigate the risks that COVID 19 poses to the health and lives of others in our community.

Name: D. Matt Duncan

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 8:43:53 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Public health guidance

Testimony: I am very sad and embarrassed by the Mayor's silly anti-science comments and position on public health guidelines for combating the spread of Covid. I support the assembly members who are trying to follow the advice of health care professionals. That is a sad statement to have to type. Embarrassing.

Name: Richenda Sandlin-Tymitz

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 8:51:46 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I would like to voice my support for Ordinance No. AO 2021-91. Face coverings are a necessary tool for combating the virulent spread of Covid-19. They simple, costs very little, ensures that our local economy can keep running, and -- most importantly -- proven to save lives by limiting spread. With a muni mandate, the you'd take the pressure off of businesses to enforce their own individual mandates, and provide clear direction to residents. We can no longer expect people to 'do the right thing.' Please vote in favor of the ordinance as proposed.

Name: Martha Farris

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 8:52:59 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Masking Mandate

Testimony: I strongly support the implementation of the mask mandate to go in to effect as soon as possible. I am very concerned about the incredible rise in COVID cases in Anchorage and the impact of those cases on the entire medical care system. Wearing a mask is not only easy, but has the direct impact of lowering virus transmission. This should not be a political issue but a safety issue and I urge all members of the assembly to help protect the residents of Anchorage by voting for this mandate.

Name: Malia Nice

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 8:53:03 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L.1

Testimony: This is to state as a member of the Girdwood community I am against reinstating the mask mandate. Thank you for listening to the voices of your community members regarding this topic.

Name: Greg Svendsen

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 8:58:32 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Masks

Testimony: I believe those of us that are vaccinated have done our civic duty. I hate wearing a mask and don't feel I owe it to the unvaccinated people to wear a mask to protect them. If I get covid after being vaccinated so be it. Forcing us to wear a mask to protect the ignorant is not right.

Name: Keenan Zerkel

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 9:01:01 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: As written AO2021-91 is misleading, vague, non-enforceable and will waste community resources rather than protect the public. Mask wearing is a option - no person's ability to wear a mask is has been restricted by this administration. If you want to wear a mask, do it. |COVID-19 vaccinations are being reported ineffective as fully vaccinated people are getting the delta variant. So the 'science' on this virus is not completely understood. MANDATING mask wearing throughout the municipality has not been proven to be effective limiting infection. The argument is not whether its a good idea, its should the assembly MANDATE this requirement (which is so politically divisive). I do not think they should. Most of the 'Whereas...' paragraphs were cited without reference by legitimate sources. They are tongue and cheek ""General Krumm says folks getting infected in the municipality""...really! Is he a doctor? Does he have proof of where soldiers are being infected? If so why isn't he running the CDC. We have better ways to limit the strain on our health care system. Investing in the monoclonal antibodies, providing better testing, not firing health care workers who chose not to be vaccinated, etc. Kenai and Wasilla have found adequate measures without MANDATING masks, why cant you?|To a more practical point, as written this AO does not fully account for persons who should be exempt, and is completely non-enforceable so why do it? There are several groups of people who should not be forced to wear masks (PTSD, breathing complications, smokers, religious exempt, people who in the performance of their official duties would suffer, etc.) |Further, the city attorney does not have the resources to enforce the mandate if citizens report non-compliance per the mandate instructions. We are still a country of innocent until proven guilty. You think she has the time and staff to fully and fairly investigate each alleged event and bring the appropriate fine? Or were you hoping citizen would turn against citizen and text videos, hoping she'd get overwhelmed and default to fine, fine, fine, guilty, guilty, guilty! You are attempting to pass an ordinance with punitive measures...you're obligated to do it right.

Name: Julia Bockmon

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 9:01:45 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: My husband and I, who are retired and live in West Anchorage, support passage of AO 2021-91 requiring the wearing of masks in indoor public settings, among other requirements. Action is desperately needed to slow the spread of Covid-19 so we can all get back to normal activities and hopefully end the pandemic. It is so frustrating to have done so well in controlling the spread in the first year plus of this crisis to be where Anchorage is today. Please pass this ordinance! And override any veto that may come from our current mayor, who seems to care little about the health and well being of our community - it's businesses, schools and citizens. Thank you.

Name: David Evans

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 9:03:32 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L. Ordinance No. 2021-91(S) - Public Health and Safety Measures for the Covid-19 Pandemic

Testimony: Please adopt AO No. 2021-91(S). Please do not be swayed by those unwilling or incapable of recognizing good, science-based public policy.

Name: Ali Butler

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 9:05:57 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I'm strongly in favor of a mask mandate in Anchorage. Studies show lower rates of community transmission in cities with mask mandates, and we desperately need to lower our community transmission.

Name: Mollie Crittenden

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 9:09:28 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandates A02021-91

Testimony: We need a mask mandate in Anchorage & our State of Alaska. |If the Governor and Mayor of Anchorage won't protect us then we have to do it ourselves. They should not have that much power that jeopardizes our lives! |We need a mask AND a vaccine mandate. |TODAY!

Name: Dan Smith

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 9:18:05 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 2021-91

Testimony: I support the assembly ordinance 2021-91 to institute a masking mandate for the city of Anchorage. I especially appreciate how it is tied to the level of covid cases and provides an exit path for when covid case counts are brought into a manageable status. |Thank you

Name: Lou Stevens

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 9:20:57 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14L

Testimony: I do not see an issue with someone wanting to wear multiple masks and taking multiple Vaccines. That is a personal choice. Where I have an issue is the local government trying to meddle in the decisions we make as sovereign individuals. Or trying to pawn the responsibility off on local businesses to be the arms of enforcement. If your masks and vaccines aren't enough to protect you at this point. I do not think the local government will solve your neurosis. I do not like how this became political, and any problems with staffing/logistics at the hospitals have been going on long before Covid was ever a thing.

Name: Hali Young

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 9:23:55 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Dear Anchorage Assembly Members and Mayor Bronson, || My name is Hali Young and I am a proud third generation Alaskan. I was born and raised in Chugiak, Alaska, a town where my grandparents and parents have grown-up to be small business owners. I am standing against the mask ordinance, AO 2021-91, for several reasons. The first reason being that I believe each person has the right to medical freedom, which is defined as the right to informed consent and self-determination regarding an individual's choice to accept or deny any medical intervention for themselves or their family. | A mask in this application is a medical device. I have the right as an individual to accept or deny the use of this medical device. As a caregiver, employed at a local hospital, I understand the effectiveness of an N95 mask and PAPR respirator system when treating individuals with aerosol and airborne viruses. Cloth and paper masks do not provide the same level of protection as that of N95 masks or PAPR's, and therefore cannot be used as a protective and preventative measure for COVID-19. I do not support the use of a medical device, especially when it is not scientifically proven to be effective in limiting or halting transmission of COVID-19 or any virus. || As a well-informed citizen, I am able to decide how to best protect myself and my family against COVID-19. I do not support ordinance AO 2021-91 because I believe that every person has the constitutional right to make the best decisions for themselves. Just because an individual may choose differently than what is recommended or prescribed does not permit the discrimination or limitation of one's civil liberties or personal rights. || To the Anchorage Assembly Members, specifically: | I encourage you today to represent the people Anchorage, as we have elected you to do so. I understand that you are trying to protect the health and safety of the public, but that is not what we have elected you to do. We have elected you so that you can protect our freedoms. So step back into your line and do what we have hired you to do. || In case you have forgotten, we live in America. Do not forget our American values, most importantly our freedom as Americans. Many of our people have died for our country so that We the People have a say in what happens to our bodies. || Vote against AO 2021-91. Give us the choice! || Sincerely, || Hali Young

Name: Patti Asman

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 9:30:20 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Wearing masks

Testimony: Wearing masks when you keep touching the front of them spreads more disease... people don't know how to use them properly. | Instead of focusing on fear based solutions we need to focus on helping people to increase their immune system, get healthier to fight off the virus! | Question - How much money is Alaska strong to enforce mask mandates and vaccinate people?

Name: s button

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 9:36:23 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-19 Safety Measures for Covid-19

Testimony: Mr. Bronson stated, ""I don't know what more we can do."" ADN, Sept 8. 2021, yet there is no doubt that masking slows the infection rate COVID-19 and any other disease/virus, etc. which are spread when an infected person breathes out diseased droplets. | | I (and others in my circle) have gotten vaccinated AND wear masks. I do this to protect myself, my family, and the community as a whole. Anchorage, and Alaska could have avoided the current heath emergency, loss of lives, loss of revenue, etc. by continuing to follow known procedures for slowing the spread of disease rather than allowing Public health policy to become a political statement. | | Hopefully, the Anchorage Assembly will show they do know what they can do by passing this ordinance, enforcing it, and assessing fees for violation of it. EVERYONE SHOULD MASK UP! | |

Name: Amy Hastings

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 9:52:55 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: To whom it may concern, | | We are all tired of the restrictions placed on us as a result of COVID. Therefore, it is up to each of us both individually and as a community to bring closure to the pandemic. Wearing a mask in public spaces has become politicized, which is a dangerous and upsetting precedent. As Americans, we have access to some of the best and the brightest minds in science and medicine, and together with their global counterparts, a path forward has been developed - a vaccine. But, additional precautions are clearly needed as many choose not to get the vaccination. | | As the mother of a young child, I would like for life to return to normal for him in the near future, without unnecessary risk and exposure to this potentially life-threatening virus. We can only do this by eradicating the virus and stopping the spread. We can only do this as a team, and some want to sit on the bench. | | Many have likened a mask mandate to regime-style politics and the like, which is a direct - and incorrect - result of the polarized political soapbox they have chosen to stand upon. That is not the case. Those who choose to NOT assist in the eradication of COVID-19 and its variants still have a choice to not mask up and vaccinate. In doing so, they make a personal choice that is based on their belief systems and values - and that is fine. But, they need to realize the majority is ready to participate in both of these activities for the greater good. If they choose not to be a part of this effort then they choose to opt-out of public gatherings and lose access to local businesses. This is not exclusion. It is protection for the rest of us. | | Thank you.

Name: Dan Smith

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 9:53:53 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO Number 2021-91, Mask Mandate

Testimony: No!|Anchorage Assembly Ordinance No. 2021-91 - Mask Mandates |||Thank you to those on the Assembly who put forth the proposed re-masking ordinance. To be clear, I am only addressing those assembly members who continue to impose their unwanted medical mandates and advice on the citizens of Anchorage. It is a good reminder of the tyrannical oppressive people that you are. ||Thank you also for trying to protect my health but that's not your job. Your job is to sit in that chair that we bought, work in this building that we paid for and protect my God given rights. Your job, that we pay you to do, is to protect me from people like you, who would take my rights from me. ||Thank you for creating a situation that conditions people to think only you the Anchorage Assembly can save them, through tyrannical medical mandates. You do however, have a large problem. The people of Anchorage have realized that it is you that created the problem and you who are continuing to be the problem. ||Just in case we forget, I think it is good to remind ourselves of actual virus survival rates when all that gets reported is the number of positive cases, hospitalizations, and deaths associated with COVID. There is no mention of numbers of recoveries or naturally acquired immunity. From the CDC, the following is their infection fatality - survival rates. These statistics are without early treatment!

	AGE GROUP	INFECTION FATALITY RATE	SURVIVAL RATE
	0-19	0.00003%	99.997%
	20-49	99.98%	0.0002%
	50-69	99.5%	0.005%
	70+	94.6%	0.054%

||If anyone is still advocating wearing of masks or masking their children or mandating masks, they should have this information. It might ease their fears of the virus. ||Fear is really the wedge you are attempting to drive between us and divide Anchorage with. But I think we are done with your fear mongering. We are done with this virus. We are done being ruled. But most importantly we are done complying with your tyrannical dictates. ||You parade a group of medical professionals into the assembly and orchestrate speech on behalf of your mandates and try to frighten us. I tried to find but could not see my doctor in that group. Neither are any of the assembly members my doctor, last time I checked. Why therefor, do you think you can offer me medical advice on the prescription of a medical device like a mask? You have no authority in the matter of my health. ||You see... It's not just about a mask with a tyrant. We know the mask does not prevent the spread of aerosol born viruses. It is about a signal of compliance and division of a population. You might even have a provision in your mask ordinance whereby one citizen could tattle on another as an offender and then pursue them in some form of illegal court case. Your ordinance would pit store owners against other owners and customers who do not comply. It would be abused by individuals with grudges. It would set people against people, children against parents and most likely result in unwanted violence. This is the stuff of 1941 Germany. In my opinion, this mask ordinance has more to do with the recall election of one of its sponsors. If it's too dangerous to leave our homes then we must cast our votes by mail and avoid human contact, you say. You insist that we must mail out ballots to every man, woman, child and dog, in District 4 so that no person, either living or dead, is denied their right to vote. The problem is, we know how mail-in ballots are easily and fraudulently manipulated and do not appreciate your gesture. ||Your unending and unscientific message of fear is a pathetic attempt to herd people in the direction of your totalitarian socialist agenda. I reject your false fear argument as a way of making policies. ||So in conclusion, I would like to thank you for the free medical advice and free 20 month trial of totalitarianism and

socialism, but I would like to cancel my subscription at this time. Your efforts will not be forgotten at the next election. |

Name: Daniella May

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 9:59:50 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: Hello Assembly members, I am a resident of district 2, and I am writing you today in support of this ordinance. Unfortunately, the COVID 19 pandemic is still an extremely real threat that is currently running rampant in our state. Even with our small population we are surpassing other states with our case counts. We all want this pandemic to be over, but it will not go away by simply ignoring it. If we continue to ignore it more people will continue to fall ill, and potentially die. We supposedly live in a community, and in a community we must all work together to protect each other. As much as wearing a mask can be annoying I completely understand that it is a necessary safety measure for others around me. Winter is quickly approaching, and the hopefulness we felt with the introduction of the vaccine has since waned as a segment of the population continues to resist vaccination. At this point we are all responsible for the outcome of this pandemic, and each of us can do a small part by wearing a mask (as well as getting vaccinated). I support the healthcare staff who bravely spoke out at the Assembly meeting on 9/14/21. It is clear that the situation in Anchorage has reached a dire point. The healthcare community is crying out for our assistance in helping combat this pandemic by reinstating a mask mandate. I feel that wearing a mask is a small price to pay in order to potentially save lives, and get the hospitals back to a more manageable state. My toddler required stitches last week, and I was terrified to take them to the ER, and had to find a provider who would treat us in office. Other people are not so lucky, and will be in situations that require an ER or ICU visit. If there are no beds for them because the hospitals are overrun with COVID patients then we have failed these people. If people die because they do not receive the care that they need because we do not have the capacity to help them, we are no longer living in a "first world country". I support this ordinance, and I implore the Assembly to pass it unanimously. I also hope that the newly elected Mayor will decide to support a mask mandate in order to protect the residents of Anchorage. Thank you for your time.

Name: Ruth H

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 10:04:09 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Firstly, I am grateful for this opportunity to share my thoughts with you-thank you for taking time to consider them. I am writing because I am concerned about any order that mandates masks or anything to anyone in our currently free country. It is obvious that all ""authorities"" on covid have been issuing contradictory statements about whether masks work from the beginning (even Dr. Fauci said that the masks do not work for the particle size of this virus), and they will continue to contradict one another. People have been very dedicated in their masking from the beginning and still contract covid. As we have recently seen, mandating anything results in the division of society. It is still the right of every American to make decisions regarding their own personal health. Please do not perpetuate a culture of fear and mistrust. Let those who believe the masks protect them wear masks. Let those who choose to run the risks go without. Let individual businesses make their own policy. Let people use their common sense and reinstate the belief that Americans look out for each other and have each other's best interest at heart-the forced masking actually does the opposite. Please, please consider the individual freedoms we still retain, and the fact that mandatory orders are currently removing the power of individual choice (""my body, my choice""). Thank you for serving our community and for taking time to listen to our voices.

Name: Megan Marie

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 10:09:23 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am writing in support of the proposed mask mandate to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Anchorage and help reduce the burden on our healthcare system. I agree with many opponents of this mandate that this is a matter of personal responsibility. Where we differ is that I believe it is my responsibility to help protect the community and do my part to slow the spread of this virus and get us back to a "new normal" that includes hospitals available to provide care to all who need it. Wearing masks will not "fix" this, but it is one of the tools available to help mitigate the effects of widespread community transmission that is affecting our healthcare system. I don't need to review the long list of studies that show mask wearing does help to limit the spread of this virus when compliance is at a high level and a mandate will help achieve a higher level of compliance. || Please do not weigh too heavily your decision on the loud voices of the vocal minority. When mandates were in place last year, I noticed a very high level of compliance and very little grumbling about "personal freedom" to spread virus particles as Anchorage residents just got used to wearing masks. It's not a large burden on any individual and will help protect those who cannot get vaccinated, keep our schools open to in-person learning, and bolster the economy by helping people feel safer to interact with their community. I urge you to approve this mandate and support our overburdened healthcare workers who have been working so hard to help this community for the past 18 months. Our lack of action as a community is a disgraceful way to treat these heroes and shows a lack of empathy and respect that does not make me proud to live here. || Thank you,|Megan

Name: Linda Padden

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 10:13:30 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: It is imperative that the assembly approve the mask mandate. Our community is at great risk.

Name: Shannon Earl

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 10:15:24 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am writing in strong support of AO 2021-91, An Ordinance of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly Regarding Public Health and Safety Measures for the Covid-19 Pandemic, as submitted by Assembly Members Zaletel and Petersen. | | Our current path is obviously not working. Masking is easy and it is effective in slowing transmission. Given our alarmingly high numbers of positive Covid cases, masking in large groups is not controversial; it's widely accepted medical guidance. We need leadership to come together on this simple, short-term mandate for the good of the community at large. | | Actively working against commonsense, non-invasive public health mandates is a travesty and an embarrassment. Citizens deserve better than the stoking of political flames which serve only to further harm this community. I don't understand the motivation to break things. I wish there was more effort to repair, and I'm grateful for those who are working toward that end. | | Thank you.

Name: James Bennett

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 10:32:41 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91 Mask mandate

Testimony: Hello, | |I'm writing in support of the mask mandate. The covid numbers for Anchorage and |Alaska are out-of-control. When we had the mask mandate in effect earlier, the covid transmission rate dropped. The evidence is clear, masks and vaccines work. Clearly, doing nothing is harming Alaskans. We all survived the previous mandate, let's put it back in place. If the numbers don't go down, we can rescind the mandate. I think we all know that masking will work, however. | |Freedom means having the choice to do what is right, not to do whatever you want. | |Thanks.
JPBennett

Name: Jacqueline Summers

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 10:40:48 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.I Regarding Public Health & Safety Measures for Covid-19 Pandemic

Testimony: Dear Mayor Bronson and Municipality of Anchorage Assembly Members: | |I must, again, add my voice to the people requesting that you impose both mask and vaccine mandates to better protect the Anchorage community from the spread of Covid-19. Anchorage and Alaska have some of the highest per capita rates of Covid-19 in the United States and in the world. This is shocking and absolutely due to poor public health management of the Covid-19 crisis. | |There has been story after story of Anchorage healthcare providers begging for assistance. We can't ignore these pleas. Please lower the Covid-19 rate in our community through imposing both an indoor mask mandate and an Anchorage Covid-19 vaccine mandate. | |Poor Covid-19 management will have repercussions beyond even just health concerns. If we don't get it under control, there will be long term economic and educational impacts that will be difficult to overcome. Again, prevention is the better investment in both energy and time. | |You have been elected to make difficult decisions and to be the Adults in the Room. I urge you to do the right thing and implement both a mask mandate and a Covid-19 mandate so the utmost can be done to protect people while trying to also continue to live, work, and play in our community. | |Sincerely, | |Jacqueline Summers

Name: Kara Sorbel

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 10:49:04 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: My comments are mainly addressed to the administration officials who have indicated that they will veto or not enforce this ordinance if it passes, and the assembly members who have indicated that they will reject it. || To those officials and members, I have to say that I understand your commitment to personal choice regarding the pandemic, vaccines, and masking. I understand you ran for office on that platform. I respect people with principles. There is a point, however, and we all are at risk of going there, where principles turn into stubbornness. There is also a point where ""toughness"" turns into cruelty. || The hospital staff of Providence, the largest hospital in the state, is having to triage care for not just Anchorage residents, but the entire state. They are pleading with you to take the medically necessary and simple step of requiring masks in certain settings to ease the rush on the hospitals. Our young daughter received chemotherapy two years ago, and I thank God it was a few years ago and not now; we were frequent patients at the emergency room at Providence when her immune system had been destroyed from cancer treatment. Now, still too young to be vaccinated, she would not receive the immediate care she needed and she would very possibly be dead from either the lack of medical care that would otherwise be available or the Covid she likely would have caught in the current setting. ^ I am curious why the life of a child is worth less to you than your commitment to some malleable abstract principle of ""freedom."" Typically, the government steps in when people are making public health choices that can kill or hurt others, from making drunk driving illegal, to not allowing restaurants to store their side of beef in a toilet. || I am curious, then, what you see your role as a public official to be. ^ It seems to me, at its core, that it is to serve the public. You seem to view that ""service"" as protecting people from the government itself. ^ ^ You currently ARE the government. Who is left then to protect people like our daughter from your stubbornness and callousness? || We are experiencing a public health emergency. You might be willing to die for your principles. But nothing- Nothing- gives you the right to enlist a sick child who doesn't feel the same way. Please, pass and enforce this vital ordinance. || Kara Sorbel

Name: Barbara Dunham

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 10:50:52 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: I support the mask mandate and urge the assembly to pass this ordinance as quickly as possible, and to override the mayor's veto if necessary. Our city is in crisis mode, and the health, safety, and economic well-being of its citizens requires strong and decisive action to combat the pandemic.

Name: Scott Kendall

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 10:51:09 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L Covid safety/mitigation measures

Testimony: I write today in wholehearted support of passing item 14.L|Anchorage needs mitigation measures to combat the current surge of the Delta Variant of Covid-19.|As we saw last December when we took such measures (and as we can see from the current effectiveness of such measures in Juneau) mitigation works.|Partisan obedience and opposition to masking and capacity restrictions are not only hurting our healthcare system and killing Alaskans, it is also harming our economy.|The gravity of the current numbers is causing me and like-minded Alaskans to stay home and not spend money in our local economy.|Compounding that effect is that Alaska is making national news for our high infection rates, which are the highest in the country.|This means that thousands of tourists are choosing destinations other than Alaska to visit.|Please, save Alaskan lives and support our economy by passing item 14.L

Name: Alaska Coalition of BIPOC Educators Alaska Coalition of BIPOC Educators

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 10:52:06 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: We are in an urgent situation with the rates of COVID increasing in Anchorage and our state, and our hospitals are full and now rationing care. We must act. The Alaska Coalition of BIPOC Educators is issuing the following formal statement and we request the Anchorage Assembly support AO 2021-91 and for Mayor Bronson ask our community to wear masks in any public setting. ||
||Public health is ""What we as a society do collectively to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy."" This statement is from the Institute of Medicine 1988 report The Future of Public Health and is still true today. One of the major components of public health is the responsibility of preventing the spread of communicable disease, preparing for and responding to emergencies, and assuring health services to our communities. It is the job of our municipality and mayor to protect our citizens. || ||While we all enjoy individual freedoms, it is the duty and the responsibility of our government to intervene when it is an emergency. We are at a critical point, our COVID cases are the highest they have ever been, our hospitals are not able to care for our citizens and we have nothing in place to protect our citizens. We must do something immediately to help slow the spread of COVID in Anchorage, and our state. We know that vaccines and mask wearing reduces transmission, hospitalization, and deaths. There is science behind this, and we must not fall prey to misinformation and false claims that are circulating widely on social media. The scientific community supports masking and vaccines. Anchorage has had success with mask wearing and other measures to reduce spread and our cases did fall. You must listen to our doctors and nurses who are asking this of you. This is not about politics; it is about the health and safety of our entire community for which you are responsible and accountable for their safety. || ||We stand with the majority of Anchorage, from educators, doctors, and nurses. We implore you to intervene. Require masking in all public places, ask people to avoid large gatherings, get vaccinated, stay home if they are ill, getting tested, and following all Public health recommendations for isolation and quarantine. || ||Sincerely, || The Alaska Coalition of BIPOC Educators

Name: Dawn Wroblewski

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 10:57:49 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I am not in support the assembly implementing mask mandates we need to decide for ourselves what is right for us and our families. You are supposed to work for the public.. you are not working for us

Name: Michael Berry

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 10:57:49 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask requirement

Testimony: Masks have been proven safe and effective method for muting COVID transmission. There is little impact on business. One of the largest employers in Anchorage, ConocoPhillips, the schools, and the hospitals, already requires masks in the building and in meetings it's fine. We must do something to support the medical workers in the community. We are currently leading the country in cases /100k population and sadly AK has high rates of high risk health factors. While the mayor will fiddle as Anchorage burns the leg must make good faith efforts to curb the COVID tide.

Name: Jack Heesch

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 10:58:32 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Please pass the mask ordinance. I am a vaccinated, 76 year old diabetic with heart issues. I don't get out much due to COVID. When I do, I am much more comfortable in settings where everyone is masked. Unfortunately, masking is not universal. Please protect me and other vulnerable individuals by requiring masks.

Name: Claudia Wroblewski

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 11:04:03 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I'm for ""my body, my choice"" which is how it should be. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion and to decide what is best for themselves. I truly am not even against wearing masks, I don't mind wearing them but to be forced to wear them or to be forced to do anything when I don't have the choice to decide for myself is what I'm against.

Name: John Hagen

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 11:05:52 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L.

Testimony: I support for meaningful efforts from the municipality to help wrestle down the current spike in COVID-19 Delta that is running rampant around Anchorage. | |I support community wide masking, any efforts to increase vaccinations in our community, and any other efforts to decrease community wide spread your body can devise. | |My greatest concern is that a continued uncontrolled viral outbreak will do more to damage Anchorage's economy than simple short term measures meant to aid public health. | |Thank you for your time. | |John Hagen |Airport Heights

Name: Selena Hopkins-Kendall

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 11:06:32 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Item 14, mask mandate

Testimony: Dear assembly members: I urge you to pass a city wide mask mandate to prevent the further spread of covid 19. Scientific studies have shown masks are effective at reducing the spread of this disease. Alaska's rates are out of control and leaders need to take these steps. Please stay strong in the face of vitriol and rejection of science, for the good of everyone in our community. Thank you, |Selena Hopkins-Kendall

Name: June Takagi

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 11:12:01 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am glad that the assembly is following the science and the recommendations of the CDC. Please, mandate masking as written in the ordinance. The mayor does not have the well being of Anchorage residents as his priority and must be over-ridden. I work with children with special needs, many of whom are medically fragile. I need everyone that I come into contact with to be vigilant about not spreading COVID-19. Thank you.

Name: Jerry Nasenbeny, M.D.

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 11:18:39 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14L AO2021-91

Testimony: Recommend a vote in favor of mask mandates in public areas and school classrooms at this time. If numbers of active disease decline consider relaxing mandates. I feel bad for business owners who may lose money, but much worse for family members who lose loved ones. || If Mr. Dunleavy and Mr. Bronson don't believe this is a serious problem, I recommend they volunteer to carry bedpans in order to help nurses & doctors to do ""their thing"". | This may be the way Mr. Bronson could ""do more""

Name: Alex Foote

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 11:20:04 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: I am in favor. | |Thanks, | |Alex Foote |Nunaka Valley

Name: Kay Gajewski

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 11:21:50 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Anchorage residents are suffering and dying from Covid-19 in our city. Hospitals and medical staff are overrun with patients suffering from the virus. Other medical problems are being delayed. You must do what you are authorized to do--create a mask mandate and encourage vaccination.

Name: Corrie Whitmore

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 11:26:40 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: Alaska is in crisis and we need to work together to slow the spread of Covid 19. Please use a mask mandate and any other tools at your disposal to decrease disease transmission and protect your constituents. | |As a mother it terrifies me to know that if my kid has an accident, the hospital may not be available to help. We must do better. | |Corrie Whitmore |

Name: Marc Luiken

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 11:29:14 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: My name is Marc Luiken, I live on the hillside near Service High School. This is my public testimony for the Anchorage Assembly meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 28th. I am testifying against AO 2021-91. I am against this ordinance for several reasons:|1. I spent 30 years defending our nation against our nation's enemies. I am a combat veteran of Operation Desert Storm, Operation Joint Forge, and Operation Enduring Freedom. I swore to defend the Constitution of the United States against ALL enemies, both foreign and domestic. This Constitution guarantees individual liberty. I also live in Alaska. This state's Constitution also guarantees that same liberty. AO 2021-91 drives a truck over these liberties and I oppose it in the strongest terms possible. |2.

There is no scientific evidence masks prevent the spread of COVID or any other virus. Several studies, most of them commissioned either by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or the National Institute of Health (NIH) have found this to be true. Even Dr. Anthony Fauci has waffled on the efficacy of masks to prevent the spread of viruses. In fact, there are several recent studies that show the danger of continuous mask use, especially among children.|3. AO 2021-91 is in the kindest terms an abomination. It is the epitome of government overreach into the lives of Anchorage citizenry. It represents government oppression and intrusion in the finest Marxist fashion. It is created under the delusionary belief that the Anchorage Assembly is somehow responsible for the physical safety and health of the people of Anchorage. You are not; you have not been given that responsibility or power. A quick perusal of the City Charter confirms this. You may call this an Emergency Ordinance. Who has called the emergency, the Mayor, the Governor? If you're calling this an emergency, then you're the ones manufacturing the emergency for your own self-serving purposes.|4. This ordinance has been entered into record without proper legislative due process, therefore I cannot comply. ||Finally, let me add; Meg Zaletel your constituents are so displeased with your performance as their representative, they are recalling you. This ordinance is evidence of that failed performance. I will personally be working to ensure you are removed from your seat on October 26th. Five other assembly members are up for re-election Spring of 2022. I will also work tirelessly to remove those of you who support this AO. You do not represent American values, and you certainly do not represent Alaskan values.|

Name: Kellen Pierce

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 11:30:50 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Good Morning, | | I write to you today as a District 1 Anchorage resident. | | I write in the wake of hundreds of physicians, practitioners, healthcare workers, and hospital staff who have pleaded with both the Muni and its citizens to practice mitigation measures. | | I write in the complete and utter abandonment of responsibility from our Mayor and our Governor. Not only have they failed to act decisively with the legislative tools made available to them, but they have failed to address the rampant anti-vaccine / anti-mask misinformation propagated by conservative thought leaders. | | In the absence of top-down leadership the responsibility falls upon you, the Assembly, to take the steps necessary to protect our citizenship. | | Yes, the virus may still spread with the use of masks- but at a lower, slower rate. This has been proven in dozens of studies. | | Yes, it is still possible to contract and spread the virus while vaccinated- but symptoms are drastically reduced, leading to fewer hospitalizations. In August, the CDC estimated the hospitalization rates for the unvaccinated at 29.2 times the rate of those vaccinated. | | And now, as Alaska hospitals operate under crisis care, forced to ration lifesaving treatment for all, the greatest single case to make for vaccination is to lower the (long-predicted and now-manifested) strain on our healthcare infrastructure. | | Despite the histrionic proclivities of conservative action groups like Save Anchorage, I've seen no evidence that any person on the Assembly embraces the idea of mandatory vaccination. | | However, something must be done by those with the means to do it, and it's clear that the Mayor and Governor's laissez faire approach is not working. | | For God's sake, Alaska led the nation in new COVID cases last week. | | Hospitals are begging not to collapse. | | A minority of agitated citizens are loudly demanding not to have to wear a piece of cloth. | | The decision should be clear and easy. | | The Assembly must cut through the noise to act boldly and decisively in the best interest of all. | | You have my full support to approve AO 2021-91. | | Thank you. | | Kellen Pierce

Name: Sarah Hinson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 11:39:02 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: My name is Sarah Hinson, I am the mother of a four year old, and I urge you to vote yes in favor of mask mandates. |My daughter is enrolled in a preschool program, and as a parent I wonder every week if I should continue to send her. Last year, I kept her out of school when we had our last covid peak, and this year I'm taking the risk to keep her in only because she is showing a much stronger need for the social interactions vital to this stage of her development, which have been put on hold for the past year and a half. Knowing the state of our healthcare systems, it makes me feel even more inclined to keep my daughter home, at the detriment to her growth and well being, in order to keep her and others safe. |A mask mandate would provide much needed relief, not only for my family, but for many others in need. Those of us making hard choices to live in a way that lowers covid transmission risk are unfortunately less visible. I write to add my voice in big support of a mandate that would greatly help lighten the weight we are carrying. Thank you.

Name: Emswiler Mikaela

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 11:43:17 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Thank you for your time to hear my thoughts regarding the mask mandate this Assembly is wanting to impose upon us. || I have yet to see the Assembly provide evidence, data, science, common sense and human decency to back up their reasons for a mask mandate. I believe this mandate is abusive and a political charade and against our civil liberties. || If you were to read scientific journals from before March 2020, there is no pretense that |surgical masks keep out a SARS-COV 2 virus, or a virus .1 micron in size. You can find videos with colored air escaping around mask. As OSHA confirmed, mask simply do not work, it is like throwing sand at a chain-linked fence. The chain-linked fence does not keep out the sand, just like masks do not keep out the virus. When there is no science around mask wearing, you must wonder about the harm it is doing to our civil liberties. || The mask mandate message is psychologically toxic. It sends a message that everyone around you is sick, the air is bad, and social interaction is dangerous. We become less concerned about helping our neighbors and being kind to one another in the name of Covid. Instead of focusing on building our immune systems and empowering the citizens, the Assembly seems satisfied with placing this burden on the community. || The mask mandate is about control, not stopping illness. I am appalled with the failure of leadership in the Assembly. This is against our civil liberties. I request that you stop harassing us and instead empower the people of Anchorage to make their own choice, and do not place this burden on us. || Thank you. |

Name: Allen Rosenthal

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 11:44:25 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91. Public health and safety measures for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Testimony: To all of the assembly members, | | I am providing written testimony because I do not want to attend a meeting with unmasked and unvaccinated people in the assembly chamber. | | I support the assembly action to make mask mandates mandatory in all public places in municipality of Anchorage. | | I also support the assembly action to enforce penalties on people that would ignore the mask mandate of the municipality of Anchorage. | | Allen Rosenthal | 1332 Hillcrest Dr | Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Name: Anna Breuninger

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 11:49:06 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: AO 2021-91 | Good evening Assembly Members and Mayor Bronson, || As a contact teacher for a statewide homeschool program, I voluntarily wear a mask at work every day because I don't want to pass Covid on to (or between) any of my homeschool families. Unfortunately many of my families have chosen not to get vaccinated for various reasons. Some have. Many already wear masks and I've spoken to a great number of people who say they would happily wear a mask if mandated. They just don't without a gentle push from their community. Please put a mask mandate in place for Anchorage. || An elderly member of my family was recently taken to the emergency room at Providence where he stayed for two days (in the ER!) while they found a room for him in the ICU. After two surgeries, he was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. His third surgery has been delayed because of covid patient pressure on the system. His wife, much less any of the rest of the family, were not allowed to visit him in the hospital. Then my neighbor had a stroke and a similar thing happened to him at the hospital. All easily preventable with mask mandates and public figures portraying vaccination as a safe fix for our predicament. Please put a mask mandate in place for Anchorage. || I am a very concerned and active member of our community. || Sincerely, Anna Breuninger | | 7642 Brentwood Drive | Anchorage AK 99502 | 907-301-1233

Name: Patti Asman

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 11:56:23 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: Long term wear of mask increased carbon Monoxide and causes increased health issues. For people that have COPD, asthma, longhaulers such as myself and already having increased carbon mani use in my lungs will keep me from breathing and will cause additional health issues for me. See article | | <https://bmcinfectdis.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12879-021-06056-0>

Name: Shauna Nickel

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 12:07:42 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L. 14.L.

Testimony: The CDC explains that cloth face coverings and face shields are types of source control that provide a barrier between droplets produced from a potentially infected person and other people, reducing the likelihood of transmitting the virus. With a frightening uptick in Alaskans infected by Covid-19 and a healthcare system at its breaking point, please help save lives and mandate masks. This requirement will save lives and reduce long term debilitating health effects of Covid that will forever shape the lives of survivors. These long term health effects will further impact individuals, families and our economy. I have a child under 12 who can't yet be vaccinated, I fear for our vulnerable populations. Not implementing the mask mandate would be very poor judgement by our trusted leaders. | | My family masks to protect others. Wont you help make sure my family is protected as well?

Name: Michael Schechter

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 12:08:58 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L

Testimony: I fully support AO 2021-91 and encourage the Assembly to pass it expeditiously. Please ignore the selfish, anti-science, anti-reason, and frankly, anti-American rhetoric you will hear tonight. True patriots, true Americans care for their fellow citizens. They find solutions and they work together to overcome adversity. Cowards, like Mayor Bronson, throw up their hands and say ""I don't know what more we can do."" The American conception of liberty, at its core, respects that people's rights end where they interfere with the life and liberty of another human. People do not have the right to be public health menaces. Thank you for your courage and patriotism in helping our community be its best self. |

Name: Cindy Gilder

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 12:13:24 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance 2121-91S

Testimony: Please pass a mask ordinance. While I can appreciate you don't need rules unless what you are doing impacts someone else, in this instance the lack of other folks having masks on does impact me. Our hospitals are over run and if need be I want to be able to seek timely medical care. Public places have requirements for shirts and shoes even though there is minimal impact to someone not wearing a shirt or shoes. In this instance, people are dying as a result of our failure as a community to take adequate measures address COVID. ||The failure of leadership to put adequate measures in place also is causing a local economic impact. ||I find myself now choosing to shop on-line rather than spend money locally. ||Finally, I would encourage every assembly member and the mayors office to spend time sitting in any of the hospitals emergency room. While I realize because of COVID you can't do this, I believe the testimony from the various doctors paints a pretty realistic picture. Please help Anchorage paint a different picture. At minimum, pass a mask ordinance.|||||||

Name: Marilyn Stack

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 12:24:32 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91 public health and safety measures for the COVID-19 pandemic and Addendum (S)

Testimony: To All Assembly Members, | I am providing written testimony because I do not want to attend a meeting with some individuals who choose to go unmasked and unvaccinated and are attending this Meeting in-person in the Assembly Chambers. | I support the Assembly action to make mask mandates mandatory in all public places within the Municipality of Anchorage. | I also support the Assembly action to enforce penalties on people that choose to ignore this mask mandate. | I am part of the silent majority that can no longer remain quiet. | Marilyn Stack | 1332 Hillcrest Dr | Anchorage

Name: Michael Edelmann

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 12:33:45 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-92 -- Agenda Item 14A.

Testimony: This ordinance is not justified, reasonable, or warranted. The Assembly has always in the past worked within the bounds of the Municipal code, and not interfered in Mayoral appointments. Placing an individual into a position under provisional/pre-confirmation conditions is not new to this Mayoral administration. | | This ordinance reeks of partisan politics, and represents nothing more than an attempt on the part of the Assembly to erode the authority of the Mayor's office. I find it difficult to believe the Assembly would have pushed for this change to the Municipal Code had the June Mayoral run off gone differently. I challenge any member of the Assembly to demonstrate otherwise. | | I would like to remind the Assembly there are more pressing items that will better benefit the taxpayers and residents of the Municipality, and ask they set this ordinance aside permanently. Not doing so is irresponsible and represents negligence on the part of the Assembly members supporting it. Negligence to their responsibility to properly represent the best interest of the taxpayers and residents of Anchorage.

Name: Kathleen Oliver

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 12:35:18 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L.

Testimony: Dear Mayor Bronson and Assembly members, | I am declaring my strong support for Ordinance AO No. 2021-91(S) which implements masking mandates to reduce the transmission of Covid virus in our community. With our healthcare systems at a breaking point, a mask mandate is a necessary and scientifically-based strategy to protect the health of our community. Please implement this ordinance as soon as possible! | Respectfully, | | Kathleen Oliver

Name: Noelle Fabiano

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 12:36:12 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO2021-91 - public health & safety measures for the COVID-19 pandemic

Testimony: I am writing in support of a mask mandate within the Municipality of Anchorage until COVID-19 infections are on a sharp decline. | | I believe in science and believe in the information that is presented by Dr. Anne Zink and the CDC about how to lessen transmission within the community. A mask mandate has proved to be an effective means to help stop the spread. Case in point - the Anchorage School District. Yes, there are COVID cases within the schools, but there would be more if Dr. Bishop did not stand her ground on a mask mandate. (Arizona study per CDC - schools without mask requirements have 3.5 times more outbreaks of COVID than in schools that have a mask mandate.) | | I'm tired of the restrictions put on my life and my family and friends because of the high infection rates. I want to be able to go out into the community and not feel like I'm exposed to COVID every time I'm out and about. This is a mask mandate, something that is one of the least invasive things you can do. | | I, along with many community members, am asking for this temporary mandate to help our community turn around in the right direction. We need lower case counts and better moral in our community overall. | | On the positive side, I was out and about grocery shopping the other day and the majority of people were wearing masks. People want this - temporarily, of course! They want a better tomorrow. | | Thank you. |

Name: Connie Markis

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 12:42:10 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Covid-19 response and mandates

Testimony: I just feel it is important to weigh in on the very concerning issue of our states highest rate in the nation of Covid-19 infections per population. There is a reason we are there, it doesn't just happen. The reason is because there are too many Alaskans arguing against science. Science is obviously not perfect and doesn't have all of the answers, but if anyone is smart enough to follow the data, it is quite apparent that getting vaccinated and wearing masks decreases the incidence of Covid-19 infection. When we can decrease infection, it mitigates decrease in productivity, disability and potential death, especially for those who not vaccinated, therefore, it helps our economy overall. For our ""leaders"" to say that they respect our liberty first, they are willfully ignoring science and data and not following public health guidelines which operate for the betterment of all Alaskans, not just their personal inconvenience that they define as ""freedom"". AS A NURSE, I SUPPORT MASK AND VACCINATION MANDATES. | | Thank you, | Connie Markis

Name: isha kari

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 12:42:23 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am writing to plead with you not to pass this mask mandate. My husband and I own a business in Girdwood and I can't imagine being forced to kick people out of my restaurant if they aren't wearing a mask. I firmly disagree with this enforcement. I truly think this will cause huge fights among neighbors. You are encouraging neighbors and friends to spy on each other and then to tattle to the authorities. This reminds me of what was happening in Nazi Germany during World War 2. Allow people to make their own choice. I also believe that if this is passed, the next step will be forcing vaccination, and proof of it, to go into public buildings. This is wrong.

Name: Kate Frankforter

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 12:59:24 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14L: Masks to be worn indoors

Testimony: Dear Assembly Members and fellow citizens: || I want to thank the Assembly members who are following science and our best health practices to introduce a mask mandate. I am in full support of this ordinance and believe we should be wearing masks indoors to protect the health of our fellow citizens and our economy. The science is clear that masks work. Masks and vaccines are the most effective ways to combat Covid-19. You can just look at our city to demonstrate this truth. When Covid first came to our city we put in place mask mandates and we kept our Covid numbers down, our hospitals functioning well, and saved the health of many of our fellow citizens. During this current wave of Covid, we have no mask mandates and left it up to individual citizens. We now have one of the highest rates of Covid and Covid deaths in the United States and our hospitals are rationing care. This situation increases the risk for every Anchorage citizen. ||| The economy is intricately linked to the health of our city. The economy cannot thrive if people do not engage for fear of getting sick. For example, I will not be eating out in restaurants until our numbers of Covid come down or shopping for nonessentials. I very much wanted to see a show at the Discovery Theater downtown this weekend but decided against it because it was too risky with the high community spread of Covid. Risking my life is just not worth it. By not going to the theater, it means I am not going to go to dinner before the show or dessert after the show. Maybe I would have purchased new shoes for the event. I might have tried to get a group to go to the show. Because of high covid numbers the downtown businesses are losing a lot of revenue. It affects a wide range of businesses. Last month we took our daughter to college. We were going to stay an extra five days and make it a holiday for my husband and I. With the high numbers of Covid, we changed our plans and canceled the extra days. The 5 days of tourist revenue was never realized. I am just one person so imagine the ripple effect. I believe the majority of citizens are making these kinds of decisions everyday which negatively affects the economy. Anyone who says it is either having a strong economy or treating Covid is creating a false dichotomy. The economy and having a healthy citizenry are totally linked. You will not have one without the other. In addition, workers should not have to choose whether to work and expose themselves to the virus or not work. Everyone should be able to work in a safe environment. || I want to thank the medical community for their work and integrity to keep telling the truth even when the truth is hard to hear. I hope that all our community can support them and their work of saving our lives! It is such a comfort knowing you are their if I need you. So thank you. || I want to thank leadership who stand up with the truth about Covid and what works. I want to thank the leadership who try to pull us together as a community. I get why many people want to deny the truth of how dangerous the Covid virus is or the truth that we do have to change our habits to combat it. No one likes this truth but it doesn't go away if we ignore it, deny it or fight it. You just delay developing effective measures that lessen Covid's impact which will cost lives and our economy. One of the amazing things about Anchorage has always been our community. Lets keep it that way through these challenging times and help all of us live healthy and thrive. || I am in full support of 14L and wearing masks indoors. || Regards, Kate Frankforter ||

Name: Suzanne Luiken

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 12:59:50 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: My name is Suzanne Luiken. I'm a resident of Anchorage and live in the area of middle hillside. |First off, I'd like to say that we all, in all likelihood, have had loved ones or close friends that have had Covid. In fact, many of us have family members and friends that, at personal risk, worked long hours to take care of Covid patients that came to the hospital. Before vaccination, they were all viewed as our heroes in the public's eyes. They are all still heroes in my eyes and to them I say ""Thank You!"" In all my years I have never seen a situation where we tell sick people to stay home until things get bad, then come to the hospital. So, I'm sure, with no treatment given to many people, once they set foot in the hospital with COVID, the outlook is bleak. The only pre-hospital treatment that seems to be recommended is wearing masks. That's astonishing! |Our state has led the charge in vaccination, yet we still have folks coming down with Covid and once again, the solution is to put on a mask. Israel, one of the most vaccinated countries, is showing epic failure to control their covid outbreak even when adding a booster to the mix and reimposing their mask mandate. |I think we have all heard the saying that insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. This is insanity to think that reimposing a mask mandate, when all evidence shows it doesn't work. |AO 2021-91 is a clear violation of our personal freedoms as Americans, and Alaskans, and has no benefit at stopping COVID. In addition, as a grandmother, I'd like to add that this has serious consequences to the longterm psychological health of children. It's incredible that our brave grandparents stormed the beaches of Normandy knowing that death could be a reality to ensure the freedom of our nation. We have become cowards hiding behind a mask. |So, my suggested solution, is you bureaucrats need to get out of the way and allow our doctors to storm their beaches of Normandy via their doctor/patient relationships and encourage them to use early treatment methods that have worked with many patients. I have personally witnessed close friends and family that have recovered from COVID, even those with high co-morbidities, I might add, and have recovered beautifully. They all benefited from a lifesaving doctor/patient relationship in spite of misinformation about early treatment methods. It's criminal to hamstring doctors and threaten them for using successful treatments. In addition, I'm certain you can parade health care workers to the podium and have them call for masks and possibly lockdowns. They are worn out and receiving instructions from those above on the 'correct' protocols for COVID. Once again, the definition of insanity is doing the same thing and expecting a different result. |Finally, I'd like to remind each assembly member that you work for the people of Anchorage. Your power comes from the people you represent. The people are speaking ""Stop the insanity!! You are not in your position to push your personal agenda. We have businesses in Anchorage that we're crushed during the lock downs and if you impose any more draconian mandates, that don't work I might add, many more will suffer and likely close, is that your intent?

Name: Sarah Venator

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 1:07:46 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: I am writing to support the mask mandate. It is no more an infringement of our personal freedoms than requirements to wear seatbelts, or to wear shirts and shoes in buildings. What's more, it's an appropriate response to a public health emergency. Our state has the highest rate of COVID transmission in the country at the moment. That in itself is more than enough to demonstrate that voluntary measures are not working. Our hospitals are being overrun by COVID patients, most of whom are not vaccinated. But this doesn't only affect those who choose not to be vaccinated; it limits availability of emergency medical care for the unvaccinated too. Studies have shown that mask mandates reduce the rate of spread of COVID-19. Let us not look back on this time and say that we could have done something to reduce suffering and death, and chose not to.

Name: Michael Powell

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 1:13:51 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: Mask mandates save lives just like seatbelt laws. Many people do not wear seatbelts because they want to but rather because it's the law. Giving people the choice to get sick is one thing, but allowing our hospitals to be flooded with sick people requires action. If our mayor chooses to be impotent on this issue then it is essential that some leaders in our community step up and fill in for his incompetence. I support the mask mandate as long as health providers and knowledgeable officials agree it is needed. I also condemn the leaders who have chosen to make mask mandates a political tool for their personal gain.

Name: Linda Smith

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 1:15:39 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L. Covid-19 Mitigation Measures

Testimony: Please pass these emergency measures! Any measure that can slow the rate of transmission is necessary, and a small price to pay to reduce health care caseloads, reduce illness, and reduce risks to vulnerable populations. For those who are not able to vaccinate, notably children under 12, taking extra steps to protect them is necessary. Masking has been shown to work in schools, specifically here in Alaska and around the nation. Cases that circulate in the schools are generally introduced by general community spread. To keep schools open, it is the community's responsibility to reduce general spread. For anyone who has made the choice not to vaccinate, they should welcome alternative measures to avoid contracting or spreading the disease. ||This is not a power grab, it is using the powers vested in the Assembly to protect and lead the city. ||Mayor Bronson's view of liberty is just plain wrong. His liberty to do whatever he feels ends where it harms and threatens others. He has the liberty to refuse the vaccine. Therefore he should refrain from entering public places where his refusal to take reasonable precautions cannot be mitigated. Wearing a simple cloth face covering or surgical mask is a small price to pay to keep doors open and the community healthy.|||||

Name: Mike Edlmann

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 1:19:09 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91, Agenda Item 14.L

Testimony: This ordinance makes no sense. || The ordinance justification (whereas statements) describe a situation that is significantly more dire than that used in early 2020 to institute a Declaration of Emergency that provided the Mayor's office almost unlimited authority when it came to fighting the COVID pandemic. In 2020 the declaration of emergency was based on projections of an overwhelmed healthcare system. Those projections were never realized. || Now, according to this ordinance, the crisis that was predicted in EO-2020-1 is here. Hospitals ARE rationing care. Life or death decisions are being made, and people have died due to lack of resources. || And, the Assembly is putting forth a half measure requiring masks for the next three months? In what world does this serve the community at large? || Instead of this masking ordinance, the Assembly must re-institute EO-2020-1 complete with all amendments without alteration. The Mayor's office MUST have full authority to re-allocate funds and resources as needed in order to combat this pandemic. || There is in fact (according to AO 2021-91) a serious and immediate emergency. I cannot imagine any justification for not reviving the very same EO that the previous Mayoral administration used so successfully in preventing an overloaded medical care system. Well, I can imagine quite a few reasons why the Assembly might not choose to revive the EO, but none of them paint the Assembly in a positive light. || Stop doing things in a half baked manner, and do what really needs to be done. Put EO 2020-1, complete with amendments and without restrictions back into place. || Doing anything less is a clear indication that the Assembly is putting politics ahead of public safety. Doing anything less is proof that the Assembly is not representing the best interests of the taxpayers and residents of Anchorage. ||

Name: Vickie Swain

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 1:24:19 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: Section 3 A4 directs employers to make sure employees were present in the workplace have access to and wear masks or face coverings when with the public or unvaccinated coworkers. Workers do not know who is vaccinated and who is unvaccinated. Notifying employees of who is unvaccinated is a HIPAA violation. || Next section 5 first part of the sentence businesses and business building owner shall deny admittance to any individual who fails to comply with assortments. How does the assembly propose businesses and building owners denied admittance? last part of the sentences shall require or compel removal of such individuals from the premises. Compel by definition means to remove forcefully this language is inappropriate and should be deleted. ||

Name: Alyssa Hoskie

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 1:32:14 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandates

Testimony: I'm in support of mask mandates due to its impact on public health. We have seen the effects of covid on our hospital infrastructure and we need to act now in order to protect the people of Alaska.

Name: Kathleen Easley

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 1:35:17 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: A02021-91

Testimony: I am a school nurse and work in public health managing COVID cases. I am writing in today to provide testimony and support for masking requirements in Anchorage. ||First, I wanted to address the lack of respect that I witnessed toward the medical professionals that testified at the last Assembly meeting. The lack of decorum was disturbing. The loud fringe keeps shouting through their megaphones, but they offer no solutions- and they offer no support for any type of COVID mitigation. They get a special media showcase platform provided by the Mayor and Assembly member Allard where they continue to share this one sided view full of misinformation and outright fabrications as if they themselves are medical specialists. It was horrible to see an Assembly person be so belittling and rude to these people testifying to what they are actually seeing and doing HERE, in Anchorage! This ridiculousness cannot be allowed to overshadow people speaking the truth and following science. We cannot allow people to continue to downplay or obfuscate this health crisis. You have HUNDREDS of medical professionals, AHD, Alaska DHSS, the CDC, and even the World Health Organization telling you what must be done to slow the spread of COVID in our community, yet this continues to be greeted with hostility and vitriol and nothing substantial is done. ||None of these folks who seem to be ""anti-mask,"" ""anti-vaccine,"" or ""it is my choice,"" have not given any real input on how to help resolve this current crisis, they just continue to share misinformation, manipulate truths, and encourage disdain for the people trying to help, all the while cases rise and people are getting sick and dying. We need an assembly and mayor that are concerned with public health and not political platforms- I believe most of you understand this and agree. We must implement mitigation strategies that have been stated repeatedly by our health care providers, epidemiologist, and scientist. Mayor Bronson you should be requiring the use of masks in ALL public indoor spaces for the health and safety of our citizens. You should encourage the COVID vaccine for ALL eligible residents and make sure we provide science-based education for those that do not understand how vaccines work. You should ask our citizens to utilize physical distancing and to limit large gatherings or events. You should ask restaurants and businesses in Anchorage to implement COVID mitigation strategies to protect the public and their employees. ||We cannot get through this without joining efforts to protect ALL Anchorage residents. We must consider the needs and protection of all citizens from the continued rise of COVID in this community. We need to understand that people cannot assert their own individual liberties over the health of our entire community. Masking is a simple and effective way to decrease spread (see the CDC link-LOTS of references to studies you can find supporting this). Masking is a minor inconvenience with the least loss of personal choice and the most respect for everyone's liberty (See the Executive Decision-Making link too). More than half of this community is already behind a mask requirement and gladly already are wearing them to protect themselves and others. It is one way to reduce spread, not the only or perfect way-but it is a way to reduce spread. We need to educate, explain, and encourage with science-based information, that this is what public health is all about, and that we must do what we can as individuals to slow the spread, and that is masking in all public spaces until cases drop. || |Thank you for your time and please help us get through this safely. If Mayor Bronson won't do something- the Assembly must. ||Kathleen Easley BSN, RN, NCSN

Name: Miriam Roberts

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 1:38:42 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Ordinance AO2021-91 - Agenda Item 14.L.

Testimony: Dear Anchorage Assembly, | | I write in support of AO2021-91 to support our community as we get pummeled by this deadly wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. | | Alaska has been the hardest hit state and we currently boast the highest new infection rate per capita, with no end in sight. In the past, our leaders have led the way and stepped up to ensure Alaskans work together to ""flatten the curve"" and ensure our hospitals didn't get overloaded. | | Now that Alaska has been hit hard by Delta, the leadership in our community and state have collectively decided to sit back and let the virus ravage our community until we reach the ever elusive goal of ""herd immunity."" They have chose a path of unnecesary pain, suffering, and death. This approach is hurting our economy, our community members, and has broken our healthcare system. | | Our daughter just started school at ASD and she passionately wrote and drew testimony asking the school district to require masks. | | My five year old understands the importance of keeping our community safe. | | Our three year old has been masking at her preschool since the pandemic started and it's become so normal that she sometimes asks to keep it on at the end of the school day. | | My three year old understands that her mask keeps her safe and her family safe. | | Anchorage is in crisis. Our healthcare professional are begging Mayor Bronson and Governor Dunleavy to protect the vulnerable. They are begging Alaskans to take care of each other and wear a mask. They are begging Alaskans to protect themselves and others and get vaccinated. If they won't do it, then the Anchorage Assembly must do everything it can to put public health protections in place and address this crisis. | | Sincerely, | Miriam Roberts

Name: Gail Heineman

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 1:39:44 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I support ordinance Ordinance No. AO 2021-91 and its amendments. In particular, I support anything that will require mask-wearing indoors in times of high community spread such as now. | Alaska and Anchorage are in crisis, our hospitals and particularly ICUs overflowing with unvaccinated Covid-19 patients, to the point that Alaskans are being delayed or denied emergency care. | Science has shown for some time that wearing masks reduces spread of the virus, but for the doubters, the huge gold-standard study completed in Bangladesh by Jason Abaluck et al is incontrovertible. | Please follow the science and do pass this ordinance. | Thank you. | Gail Heineman

Name: Kalie Harrison

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 1:45:00 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Hello Madam Chair and Members of the Anchorage Assembly, || There is no COVID-19 strategy that can stop the spread of the virus on it's own. It will take many layers of mitigation to slow the spread, lessen the infections and relieve the relentless pressure on our already fragile healthcare system in Alaska. || I ask that communities with high rates of COVID-19 wear masks in public settings to help protect Alaskans from the spread of COVID. Vaccines and the use of masking have been proven to reduce morbidity, mortality, and the burden on our hospital systems. Please ask all MOA residents to wear masks in public settings, social distance inside, stay home if they are ill, get tested and isolate if exposed. || Thank you, || Kalie Harrison |

Name: Bruce Farnsworth

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 1:47:56 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: The proposed mask mandate

Testimony: Dear Assembly Members, | | I am deeply appreciative of your efforts to provide leadership to our community in the realm of public health during this difficult and chaotic time. Most of us realize it isn't easy. | | While I personally am a strong advocate of following the guidance of the CDC and our statewide health professionals concerning vaccinations and mask-wearing, I don't at this time support the proposed ordinance to mandate the wearing of masks for Anchorage residents for the following reasons: | | The mayor will not agree to enforce the provisions of the ordinance which renders it a symbolic gesture to a large extent. I don't believe symbolic laws are a good use of governmental resources and energy. A better way to state a case for the assembly majority's opinion that the current crisis requires mitigation measures is to pass a short, clear clarion call to businesses and citizens, in the form of a resolution, to mask up in the circumstances described in the ordinance. | | I understand that part of the intent of passing an ordinance is to give business owners the cover they need to enforce these behaviors on their premises in the form of a legal mandate from the municipality. But in the face of a public non-enforcement stance on the part of the administration, that is some pretty weak tea and won't do compliant business owners any real good I fear. | | Most importantly, I am strongly opposed to any effort on the part of the municipality to implement any provisions that call for or allow individual citizen enforcement of public health ordinances at this time. This is the worst possible thing we could do right now in the face of an extremely polarized citizenry about the proper forms of pandemic mitigation and the role of government in selecting and enforcing them. I can't imagine anything you could do that would take an already volatile and dangerous set of circumstances and make it worse than to turn us into a city of snitches and vigilantes. Please don't. | | In summary: | | 1. Pass a clear and strongly worded resolution urging compliance with reasonable and effective guidelines instead of an unenforceable ordinance mandating compliance. | | 2. Under no circumstances should the assembly consider placing enforcement powers in the hands of individual citizens. Full stop. | | Thank you for this opportunity to provide input. | | Respectfully yours, | | -Bruce Farnsworth |

Name: Megan Walsted

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 1:53:38 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: The proposed mask mandate

Testimony: I strongly oppose the new proposed mask mandate most especially the civilian policing section of said mandate. These mandates only serve to divide us as a community and increase suspicion of our neighbors and friends. Please let us all act like adults and make these decisions for ourselves. We live in America the land of the free and the home of the brave. Please let us continue to be free - to make our own decisions, to live our own lives, and to raise our children in a society that values connection and not division and civil policing.

Name: Shane Schenker

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 1:54:50 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandates

Testimony: Hello, | | My name is Shane Schenker. I am a lifelong resident of Anchorage, AK. I am writing to express my concerns regarding the mask mandates proposed by Meg Z. | | Let's look at the unsettled science of the matter. | | See the attached link, | | <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/do-masks-actually-work-the-best-studies-suggest-they-dont> | | which states ""In sum, of the 14 RCTs (randomized control studies) that have tested the effectiveness of masks in preventing the transmission of respiratory viruses, three suggest, but do not provide any statistically significant evidence in intention-to-treat analysis, that masks might be useful. The other eleven suggest that masks are either useless - whether compared with no masks or because they appear not to add to good hand hygiene alone - or actually counterproductive. Of the three studies that provided statistically significant evidence in intention-to-treat analysis that was not contradicted within the same study, one found that the combination of surgical masks and hand hygiene was less effective than hand hygiene alone, one found that the combination of surgical masks and hand hygiene was less effective than nothing, and one found that cloth masks were less effective than surgical masks."" | | Ask yourself why there are so many published studies regarding the ineffectiveness of masks that are thrown by the wayside. What is the process the assembly utilizes to determine which ""scientific study"" is fact and which is fiction? A better question is who paid for the study? At the end of the day we can agree to disagree because this is still America. You think masks are safe and effective. I think they are ineffective and invite infection based off the studies I've read. This is all about choice. My body, my choice. Your approach of one size fits all is not only disruptive and discriminatory its unconstitutional. How do you wish to enforce this mandate? Neighbor turning on neighbor? Business owners to turn in patrons? By further dividing the public your ""solutions"" hurt more than they help. The government has no business being involved with personal decisions like healthcare. I was under the impression that that America was the land of the free and the home of the brave. Our liberty and freedom are at stake here. Fascism does not appeal to anyone I know. Do you know anyone that wants ruled like Hitler did in Nazi Germany? | | I urge you to stop the division and ask you to vote NO on all mandates regarding masks. | | Shane Schenker | |

Name: Lisa Kelly Gwynn

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:00:46 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91 mask mandate

Testimony: I am writing in support of requiring masks in indoor spaces in Anchorage. ||The delta variant of the COVID-19 virus is highly contagious and wearing masks is the easiest, most cost-effective thing we can do to help our community. Our hospitals are overrun. People are dying. I would have thought that in such dire circumstances, we would have banded together as Alaskans to help put an end to this deadly virus that is affecting all of us. Sadly, some of our leaders have decided it is more important to politicize basic scientific information and spread misinformation, rather than take some action to keep us all safer. ||I have seen that Assemblymember Allard has said that mask mandates hurt the economy. This is not true. Asking people to wear masks indoors in no way restricts which businesses they can patronize, where they can go, or which businesses can continue to operate. Wearing a mask indoors is the least inconvenient thing with the most helpful results that we can do. ||Doing nothing and laughing at and haranguing the doctors who came to the Assembly to beg for help have resulted in us leading the nation in the number of new covid cases, so please let's try something that might help reduce the number of covid cases. Please help us to defeat covid by enacting a mask mandate. ||

Name: Laura Norton-Cruz

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:12:07 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: Dear Assembly Members, || I am writing in support of AO2021-91 proposed by members Zalatel and Peterson, and in support of requiring masks in indoor spaces in Anchorage. || The delta variant of the COVID-19 virus is highly contagious and wearing masks is the easiest, most cost-effective thing we can do to help our community. It does not harm business, but allows business to stay open safely -- and allows schools and childcare centers to stay open and stay staffed. It protects our children who are too young to be vaccinated, and are currently left completely without protection (like my two young children). || Our hospitals are overrun and not able to provide needed care. People are waiting in their cars outside the emergency room, people are dying, people are contracting long-term illness, families are being thrown into chaos, children are losing their parents. Alaska having the highest rate of COVID transmission and one of the fastest growing death rates in the country is not good for anyone in our state, and it is -- contrary to assertions by the Mayor and Assembly Member Allard -- NOT good for the Anchorage economy or the Alaska economy. The economy is made of people. To have an economy, we need common sense protections of people. || Please help us to defeat covid and get our city back on its feet by enacting a mask mandate.

Name: Scott Hayden

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:12:56 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: When there was a mask mandate, cases in Anchorage were low. | Now there is no mask mandate and cases are out of control, hospitals are overburdened, and people's choices to refuse masks are putting all of us at risk. | My kids are too young to be eligible for the vaccine and they are at risk of death, and at risk of ""long covid"". | The most effective way to protect my kids and others who are unable to be vaccinated is to require masks in stores and indoor public spaces. This also protects individuals who are injured or sick due to causes not related to covid. | A mask mandate will save lives. | I support a mask mandate. | Thank you to the Assembly Members. I know you work hard on behalf of the people of Anchorage. Keep up the good work.

Name: Keven K Kleweno

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:16:57 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I am 65 years old with a history of lung issues such as pneumonia. I have been vaccinated, wear a mask when I am indoors, and plan on getting a booster shot during the last half of October, 2021. || I support the proposed mask mandate. We need to stop thinking about ourselves and start thinking about how we can protect everyone's health during a pandemic. || I remember being informed that I had to get a polo shot not only to protect myself but the rest of the family along with friends. || By supporting the Mask Mandate, I know I am trying to protect my family, my friends, and the public in general.

Name: Kris Warren

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:17:47 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Masking ordinance

Testimony: To All Assembly Members: | | I write to strongly oppose the ordinance proposed to require the wearing of facemasks virtually everywhere in Anchorage through the end of the year. For those who choose to wear a mask that is their choice and they are free to do so without any mandates. For those of us who choose not to wear a mask, that should also be our choice. Many jurisdictions around the country, as well as here in Alaska, have shown virtually no difference in covid transmission regardless of mask mandates. For that reason, there is no justification for singling out Anchorage residents, as opposed to the Mat-Su or Kenai residents where no such mandates are contemplated. Such a mandate would clearly have a negative impact on Anchorage businesses as it would drive a significant amount of business out of our town to those in the north and/or south, just as it did last year when severe mandates were imposed on Anchorage residents and businesses. Again, those businesses who prefer their clients to mask up are free to impose that requirement without your interference. | | I wish to add my concern that this mask mandate has less to do with Covid mitigation than the Assembly's ongoing refusal to acknowledge that Dave Bronson, not Forrest Dunbar, was elected Mayor. Please stop wasting your time fighting the Mayor's agenda and support his efforts to improve the homeless problem which does nothing but get worse as time goes by. | | Kris Warren

Name: Gary Markis

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:18:40 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91, an ordinance of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly regarding public health and safety measures for the COVID-19 pandemic,

Testimony: I would like to thank the former mayor, Berkowitz and acting mayor, Quinn-Davidson and the assembly members for their past leadership in dealing with the covid pandemic. | | Now that we have a new mayor that promises not to institute the mitigation policies that the medical professional are begging him to take to control the pandemic thus helping spread the disease so that now Alaska is number one in the nation for covid cases and I fear soon to be number one in fatalities. It is time for the assembly to act without the mayor to prevent a growing catastrophe. | | So far the mayor's plan was to open up Anchorage by overturning previous measures and to mimic policies that have already been tried in other states and countries. | | Now that we are in the second year of Covid-19 we can see how the policies of different states and countries worked in dealing with several surges of covid-19 so why is our mayor following the policies of Sweden, Brazil, Florida, Mississippi, Texas and Idaho whose case numbers and deaths are far worse than their neighbors. | | If the mayor has a better idea on how to deal with our growing tragedy I wish he would do something to help or is he like the old aviation saying ""out of airspeed, altitude and ideas at the same time. | | It is past time to act so please assembly members do what you can to control our pandemic before more Alaskans die.

Name: Sam Snyder

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:19:49 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021 - 91 - SUPPORT

Testimony: I will keep this short. There is zero debate about the impacts of masks on our communities and the spread of COVID-19. If we, as a community, care about the future of our community, it is imperative that our leaders listen to the majority of Alaskans and to the leaders of our hospitals and public health community. Please support a mask mandate. Masking allows us to keep business open and helps mitigate the crises facing our hospitals. ||I support AO2021-91||Thank you

Name: Ash Not giving it

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:20:12 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L (mask mandate)

Testimony: I am immune compromised. I have breathing issues. And earlier this month, I was sick with pneumonia. There were times I thought I was going to die. The reason I didn't go to the ER was because it a) opened me up to potentially being exposed to COVID outside my working hours, and b) I knew the hospitals were overburdened. I have dealt with similar issues before, I figured I could handle this. | I should have been able to go to the hospital. It never should have been a choice. I should have been able to say ""I can't breathe, I think I'm dying, send me to the hospital."" And I couldn't, because of the pandemic. | A pandemic that has a solution: a mask mandate and vaccine. You say it affects our liberty because we are forced to wear one, but I don't see that. What i see is ""your life doesn't matter. My life is more important than yours. I do not care about you."" | I was lucky that I didn't have to go in. Not everyone is. And by having a mask mandate, you're preventing another me from happening. Nobody should feel like they're dying and know they can't go to the hospital because of this pandemic. | A mask mandate will save lives. You say you don't know what more you can do? It's simple: listen to the doctors and make a mask mandate.

Name: Rebecca Patterson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:25:35 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L: AO2021-19

Testimony: I write in support of AO2021-19. | | While ("What else can I do" as I do nothing) Dave Bronson has apparently decided to pursue herd immunity through the deadliest means possible, the rest of the community would like to see the municipality implement the common sense policies recommended by the vast majority of medical professionals. These mask mandates protect our community, allow our hospitals to restore capacity, and keep those safe that don't yet have the "personal freedom" to get vaccinated (read: CHILDREN). My 3.5 year old can wear a mask for 8 hours at preschool, asking a grown adult to put on a mask while in the grocery store for 15 minutes is no great burden. | | Thank you for doing what's right for the community, even in the face of a resistant and disruptive Administration.

Name: Patricia Grenier

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:27:56 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: RE:Please vote yes on AO2021-91 | |As a long time resident and an essential worker in Anchorage I am asking you to take action against the surge in COVID19 cases we are experiencing. | |With the dramatic rise in cases of the Delta variant of COVID19, and the reluctance of many members of the public to become vaccinated, Anchorage's hospitals are in crisis. With Providence, ANMC and Alaska Regional Hospital all facing an unprecedented surge in illness, the closest ICU beds are in Seattle and Portland. Everyday, as my family leaves for work and school I worry about them needing care if an unforeseen accident occurs. | |A community pulling together and wearing masks to protect all is a small step forward. With this in mind, I respectfully ask the Anchorage Assembly to vote in favor of the mask mandate for all communal spaces outside of our homes, as set forth in AO2021-91. | |Thank you,| |Patricia Grenier| |

Name: Rev. Lisa Smith Fiegel

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:29:43 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: Dear Assembly Members, | As a Lutheran pastor, Anchorage property owner and parent of three small children, I write in support of AO2021-91 proposed by members Zalatel and Peterson, and in support of requiring masks in indoor spaces in Anchorage. | | The delta variant of the COVID-19 virus is highly contagious and wearing masks is the easiest, most cost-effective thing we can do to help our community. It does not harm business, but allows business to stay open safely -- and allows schools and childcare centers to stay open and stay staffed. It protects our children who are too young to be vaccinated, and are currently left completely without protection (like my three young children, one who has asthma and one who is under 1 year old). | | I write as a pastor who is committed to the care of others, especially the most vulnerable among us. I can think of no other act that is more pro-life than doing everything we can to keep each other healthy and out of hospital beds. I think Jesus would mask up. Let's do the same. | | Rev. Lisa Smith Fiegel

Name: Mike Schroeder

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:29:43 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: I urge the assembly to take much needed action to curb the ongoing pandemic and provide our hardworking medical professionals with the support they deserve by passing AO2021-91.

Name: Carrie Tosoni

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:32:12 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: I am testifying IN SUPPORT of AO2021-91. As the mother of a 6-year old who is not yet eligible to be vaccinated against COVID19, masking is one of the most effective ways to protect her. My concern is not only for my daughter, but all of the vulnerable people in our community. I believe we should all do whatever we can to look out for our friends and neighbors, and masking is a simple way to show that we care! Thank you! Carrie Tosoni

Name: Jennifer Sonne

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:33:26 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: COVID is spreading unchecked in our community. Studies show that mask usage greatly reduces transmission of the virus. The CDC and WHO both recommend mask usage to prevent the spread of this deadly disease. Our community is looking for guidance from our muni leaders. When people don't feel safe to leave their houses, the economy suffers as well. Please help save lives by instituting a mask mandate.

Name: Margaret McDonagh

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:35:08 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2121-91

Testimony: I'm fully in favor of the mask mandate. As a public educator in Anchorage, I'm very thankful that we have a mask mandate in our schools. As I watch our hospitals become overwhelmed by cases of mainly unvaccinated patients things get scarier and scarier. It's only the first six weeks of school and three of my students have lost a parent to Covid. I care for two senior citizens in addition to my work and the fear that I will accidentally expose them terrifies me. I don't understand why people won't get vaccinated, for the vast majority of us it goes against good science to skip the vaccine. The very least we can all do is to wear a mask. Masks protect people and save lives. I hear a lot of people railing against masks saying that it's an infringement of their rights. A citizen's personal liberties only extend to the point where their action is infringing on another's liberties. Not wearing a mask and putting my life in danger is an infringement of my freedom. I wouldn't put another community member in danger like that. Why would you think it's okay to do to me or anyone else?

Name: emily sullivan

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:35:22 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: The need for a mask mandate in Anchorage is abundantly clear-- with exponential increases in COVID cases across Alaska this month, we know that we aren't doing enough to mitigate the crisis. Specifically since the Delta variant's arrival in Alaska and Mayor Bronson's beginning of term, cases have jumped nearly 50% for our state. This is absolutely unacceptable. My partner is a school teacher, and I'm grateful that ASD has had the clarity to enforce a mask mandate that keeps him protected. I hope the city will do the same. |Thank you, |Emily Sullivan |Abbott Loop Community|Anchorage

Name: Kristin Worman

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:38:59 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: Please support a mask mandate. I have personally witnessed people who's lives have been forever changed by this virus. Masks and vaccines are a proven method to reduce transmission of the virus and to get us all back to normal and whole sooner.

Name: Chelsea Riggs

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:40:23 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: ao2021-91

Testimony: I support passage and enforcement of a mask mandate in Anchorage

Name: Patrick Hadley

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:43:54 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L.

Testimony: Regarding AO 2021-91: | | Dear Assembly Members. | | I am a long time Anchorage resident living in District 4. I am opposed to any masking mandates or ordinances as an attempt to curb Covid 19 transmission. I find it especially egregious that the ""enforcing"" of such a mandate or ordinance would fall on my fellow citizens, i.e., my co-workers, my neighbors and possibly my own family. Our city is so divided on this issue that the Anchorage I once knew no longer exists. It seems there is no room for rational debate. This ordinance would bring further harmful division into our community. We need to be united more than ever, and we would have to have our heads in the sand not to acknowledge mixed data on the wearing of masks. This is a truly bad and harmful idea! | | Sincerely, | | Patrick Hadley | |

Name: Insook Lee

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:48:46 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: Masks are proven to decrease COVID transmission and while our hospitals are overflowing, the governing bodies should be doing EVERYTHING they can to make things safer for their constituents. You are being willfully dull and the inaction from Dave Bronson and Mike Dunleavy has killed Alaskans and will continue to. Enforce a mask mandate and save lives.

Name: Suki Miller

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:49:53 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14 L Mask Mandate

Testimony: I am part of what has been referred to as the sandwich generation, taking care of my own child, plus looking after my elderly parents. || My child is under 12 and there for can not get vaccinate. He actually started kindergarten this year! I'm doing what I can to help keep us safe - Our circle is small, we wears a mask in public and do not interact with people who are sick. But right now, I can't take him anywhere because I can't do anything about other people who do not wear masks that are breathing and even coughing and sneezing in his direction. Its our job as adults to help keep kids safe and requiring masks is the one of the best and easiest ways to do that. || I also have two elderly parents. They are both vaccinated, however one is currently undergoing chemo and his immune system is pretty much shot. The other has dementia and often forgets her mask and covid all together. Like looking after my son, I try to keep my parents safe, but when my mom is walking around without a mask it would be great if other community members who care about keeping our community safe can remind her that masks are mandated, rather than assume she is just choosing not to wear one. || How we treat our children and elderly speaks volumes about our values as a community. As someone taking care of a child under 12 that can't be vaccinated and two elderly parents, please help me keep the people I love safe by supporting a mask mandate. || Thank you for your time and consideration. || Respectfully, || Suki Miller | 99518

Name: Brian Blessington

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:51:26 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: A2021-91

Testimony: I am writing in support of A2021-91. I believe it is a reasonable, necessary, and well-measured approach to the current health epidemic that we are experiencing in Anchorage.

Name: Marnee Choquette

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:53:46 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Audience participation

Testimony: Greetings-|I strongly support mask mandates in the current surge of Covid-19 which has indeed been proven effective in our community. That along with encouraging vaccines will keep and even grow our economy along with allowing our schools to thrive.|Our hospitals are now a war zone with our medical staff on the front lines. Please listen to our doctors and proven science in deciding how to fight this deadly virus.|Modern medicine has effectively eradicated previous deadly diseases.|Thank you, Marnee

Name: Alliana Salanguit

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:54:09 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14L

Testimony: I would like to thank the Assembly Members who introduced and are pushing for this mask mandate. We have lost too many Alaskans already and change needs to happen. Thank you for stepping up when other leaders didn't.

Name: Molly Dischner

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:54:37 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: Members of the Assembly, || Thank you for your work and for listening to Anchorage residents despite the circus some are trying to create at your meetings. || I am writing to support AO2021-91. Despite some concerns about the enforcement provisions, I wholeheartedly support this ordinance as one way to help curb the spread of covid-19 and address the hospital crisis. I urge you to consider gathering limits or other proven, data-supported, mechanisms to address our city and state's crisis. | Our mayor is failing to provide leadership, and our friends and neighbors are dying unnecessarily. This is unacceptable. Thank you for stepping up and considering action. Please help keep our community safe and healthy.

Name: Darryl Stepien

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:55:10 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: I think it is responsible and necessary to enforce the mask mandate. Our city and state have been breaking records nationwide, Dr Zink has been interviewed on National Public news, and all for the wrong reasons. Please bring this mandate back with votes that can surpass the veto. Our city needs it to keep employees and people safe and to keep businesses safely open.

Name: Karoline Ernst

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:58:13 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: To whom it may concern in the Anchorage Assembly: || Leaders have a right and a duty to inspire those under them with courage, not fear. Re-instituting the mask mandates cultivates that culture of fear: a culture not of kindness but of meanness and suspicion. Give the people and businesses of Anchorage freedom to choose to wear masks or not -- based upon their personal health needs! || Karoline Ernst

Name: Bethany Wortham

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 2:58:30 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: To whom it may concern, | I am a resident of Alaska and I live on the Kenai Peninsula. My family spends a lot of time and money in Anchorage. Unfortunately, we have not come to Anchorage due to no mask mandate. We have small children who are not vaccinated and we need to protect them. We are people who believe in supporting small businesses as this leads to a strong community. But, we've given big businesses all our money as it's delivered directly to our door. We choose health as our first and foremost priority. | I encourage a mask mandate for Anchorage residents as it's a simple solution to stop the spread and protect those who cannot. | Thank you. | |

Name: Andy Erickson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 3:01:23 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: I support AO 2021-91. I'm concerned that the Bronson Administration has not done anything to slow the spread of Covid-19 in our community. If the Bronson Administration had a better solution, this ordinance would not be necessary. But Mayor Bronson has stated that he does not want to do anything other than the status quo. That is simply unacceptable and dangerous. I have no faith in the Bronson Administration to protect public health. Please pass AO 2021-91.

Name: Austin Merculieff

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 3:03:01 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 13.A. Resolution No. AR 2021-248

Testimony: Midtown can't afford to have any more issues than we already do have. Unfortunately, Alcoholism affects not only the addict but the addict's family and the community. In midtown, we already have a severe issue with inebriants on most street corners panhandling and staggering into traffic while being severely intoxicated. Case in point in our District alone we have had a few pedestrians vs. automobile accidents in the last few months. My understanding is at least 2 of those were unfortunately intoxicated individuals not paying attention. As a General Manager for a locally owned company, I have issues here at our Midtown location that our other two locations located in Dimond and Muldoon never have. I have to clean up after the Inebriants on a daily basis. I spend anywhere from 10 minutes to 45 minutes cleaning up Liquor Bottles ranging from half-gallon bottles, fifths to pints and half-pints and shooters. Not to mention the high alcohol content 12oz, 16oz, 20oz and 40oz beer bottles and cans. The worst part is having to clean up puke, urine, feces, clothes or anything that can be used as toilet paper and all the garbage that goes along with inebriated groups of people camping out in front of our business and other businesses all over midtown. Most of the empty liquor containers I see are items that cost \$10 or under which is a pricepoint that a LARGE amount of what the purposed Liquor Store will be selling. For all the reasons listed above and others not listed, I believe you will be doing the Midtown Community a great disservice if you allow this Liquor Store to open. Needless to say... I am AGAINST the proposed Liquor Store to being opened in Midtown.

Name: Cliff Groh

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 3:06:43 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: I urge your support for this ordinance as a reasonable public health measure to protect the people of Anchorage. We need to take strong steps to protect us from this deadly pandemic. ||Cliff Groh

Name: Paul Gionet

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 3:07:34 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: mask mandates

Testimony: Dear Assemblypersons: || First of all, thank you for your service. || As a business owner, a health care worker, and missionary to Far-East Russia for over 40 years. I am NOT in favor of mandates. || As a business owner I offer all patients that we will a mask if they request or if they are compromised. Only 2 % request us to wear masks. || As a health care worker, we are trained from day one about Universal Heathcare Precautions. We do this. Its common sense WHEN needed NOT every day. || As a missionary to Russia, PLEASE DO NOT mandate the masses unless it is from an air raid attack. || The socialist countries SUFFER. I have been there over 50 times, I know firsthand. || As a caution, POLITELY ask residents to mask up when necessary, people all over the US are already social distancing most of the time. We are HUMANS not ROBOTS. || Keep up the good work, we WILL get through this as a FREE people. || Paul Gionet RPh. ||

Name: Eleanor Morse

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 3:09:46 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: I would like to state my strong support for a citywide mask mandate. || Unfortunately my family has been too familiar with our local hospitals and healthcare workers this year. My parents have been hospitalized with non-covid issues a combined seven times this year alone. One of those times was a 6 week stay with multiple extended periods in the ICU. They are both healthy and doing well today because the attentive care they were given in the Emergency Room and the ICU. Doctors and nurses were not overrun with covid patients and had the tools to treat my parents. I could not imagine what would happen to either of them if they needed care today. There wouldnt be the beds they need and their outcomes could have been much worse. || I understand some people may view wearing a mask as a personal choice and I typically like to say that people should be able to make their own decisions without the government telling them what to do - but when individual decisions are impacting the community as a whole I think its time to make the hard calls. Helping one and other is the Alaska way, we pride ourselves on it. And we need to do it now. || I appreciate all the work you do for our city. I hope you both find moments of calm and remember there are people out there who want to do our part and will support you through this.

Name: Jamey Bradbury

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 3:12:42 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: Anchorage needs a mask mandate. The vast majority of Anchorage citizens support a mask mandate and want our leadership to take measures to protect the health and safety of the public. The state of our healthcare system is terrifying--so much so that I fear getting sick or injured because I don't know if our hospitals would have capacity to take care of me or a loved one. With the mayor refusing to take action to protect the people of this city, I urge the assembly to do what he will not and please mandate masking for Anchorage. Thank you.

Name: Stephen Hamlin

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 3:14:50 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14L

Testimony: I support immediate enactment and enforcement of a mandatory city-wide mask mandate for all indoor activities, mandatory vaccinations for all municipal employees and contractors, and fines for violators who do not have a bonafide medical exclusion.

Name: Serra Fairbanks

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 3:17:28 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: I support the mask mandate, I have now lost an aunt to COVID, am constantly dealing with employees calling in sick and waiting to get tested because of exposures, and between my 3 children have had 4 contact emails this week from their school. When I dropped my kids off today over half of their class was not there. It is false to think that by not having a mask mandate we are ""keeping Alaska open"" all its doing is making Alaskans sick, straining our health system, our education system and empowering people to spread this virus. Please make the mask mandate, if possible move forward with capacity limits. I have I talked to two fellow Moms this week who are in o the brink of a breakdown because of the stressors in this literally sick state. There will be no normalcy until we get this under control. You think people should have the choice to make others sick? The choice to infect mass numbers of each other and then take down our healthcare system? Guess what - Alaskans are not making the right choice so yes, the chicken should be taken away, because their wrong choice is killing Alaskans.

Name: James Warner

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 3:22:27 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: There is ample science and evidence dating back centuries concerning the use of masks to slow the spread of Covid 19 and other respiratory viruses. We are playing a fool's game affecting the lives and livelihoods of our citizens and city by debating simple, evidence-based science with verifiable results. Failing to reinstate the mask mandate will not only show incredibly poor leadership, but also cause our city and citizens to bear a tremendous cost in lost lives and opportunity. I strongly encourage you to do the right thing and reinstate an enforceable mask mandate.

Name: Mark Ernst

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 3:25:27 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO#2021-91

Testimony: I am strongly opposed to this additional mask mandate and any mask mandate at this time. || Masks as they are being used by the general public do little or nothing to stop the spread of a virus such as Covid-19, as the virus is significantly smaller than the most-commonly worn mask. Only a N95 or N100 masks would possibly stop the spreading of a virus but only if it were perfectly sealed to the wearer's face. || Wearing a mask for extended time is very unhealthy for the wearer. || Please do your research. Even though most of the information on masks and masking are readily available, there are other much more reputable and accurate sources of information on this matter than the nightly news or politicians. || Mask are unhealthy, masks divide and create fear, but do little to protect from virus spread. || This proposed mandate would further divide the community of Anchorage. | | Would we start spying and reporting on our neighbor if we saw them smoking or eating ice cream or not exercising, therefore causing them to possibly get cancer or heart disease? I hope not. || This ordinance would take us down a very dangerous road of discrimination, mis-trust and loss of personal freedoms.

Name: Justin Gillette

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 3:29:46 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: Alaska Public Media reported yesterday that if our state were a country, we would rank second in the world for our 7-day average of daily infections per capita. This tells us what we're doing right now is not working. Wearing a mask is not a violation of one's freedom. It is a common-sense safety measure, and one that should be adopted when we are in the worst phase of this pandemic. ||The degree to which this issue has become politicized is tragic. Decisions regarding public health shouldn't be based on misinformation and conspiracy theories. And they shouldn't be based on who yells the loudest at these meetings. This assembly must take action to protect all the residents of Anchorage, so I encourage the members to vote in favor of this measure.

Name: Samuel March

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 3:31:56 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am deeply concerned about the increased rates of COVID-19 infections and deaths in our state. Currently, Alaska is leading the nation in covid mortality rates, and as you heard in the last assembly meeting, hospitals are being forced to ration care. I think it is time that we take Covid seriously and pass this ordinance. Even though the mayor appears unconcerned about the welfare and safety of his citizens, it is still the responsibility of this assembly to keep safe the people of Anchorage, Alaska. We should absolutely pass a mask mandate.

Name: Chanda File

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 3:34:27 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14L

Testimony: Dear Assemblymembers, | | I am writing in support of the proposed mask mandate, AO 2021-91. | | Wearing masks to minimize the spread of COVID-19 is an easy way for all of us to help do our part to fight the pandemic. Unfortunately, we have seen that many in our community refuse to wear masks in public, even while our state's case numbers continue setting records. | | Our hospitals are in crisis and our health care workers need to be supported by smart public health measures. I am in full support of our municipality enacting a mask mandate to try and do something to fight the pandemic. | | Sincerely, | Chanda File

Name: Brian Miller

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 3:47:12 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14L

Testimony: Hello Assembly Members, just writing to say that I support a mask mandate for Anchorage, and urge you to vote yes on AO 2021-91. Thank you for trying to keep us safe.

Name: Lois Epstein

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 3:47:48 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14L

Testimony: My name is Lois Epstein and I am an Alaska-licensed engineer with a small business consultancy on oil and gas issues. I live in South Addition. | | I am writing to support a mandate that requires anyone entering an indoor public space or a crowded outdoor space in Anchorage to wear a mask. Just like prohibitions against smoking in public and against drunk driving, wearing a mask provides protections to oneself AND to others. I currently am reluctant to patronize local businesses for fear of catching a breakthrough case of COVID since so many people remain unmasked in Anchorage's shops and restaurants. | | Thank you for your service on the Anchorage Assembly and for voting to require the wearing of masks. If Mayor Bronson vetoes this measure, please vote to override that veto as doing so nevertheless will ensure greater wearing of masks in Anchorage at a time of record high COVID cases. |

Name: Andrea Schuster

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 3:48:22 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: With the dramatic rise in cases of the Delta variant of COVID19, and the reluctance of many members of the public to become vaccinated, Anchorage's hospitals are in crisis. With Providence, ANMC and Alaska Regional Hospital all facing an unprecedented surge in illness, the closest ICU beds are in Seattle and Portland. Everyday, as my family leaves for work and school I worry about them needing care if an unforeseen accident occurs. | A community pulling together and wearing masks to protect all is a small step forward. With this in mind, I respectfully ask the Anchorage Assembly to vote in favor of the mask mandate for all communal spaces outside of our homes, as set forth in AO2021-91. |

Name: Meredith LaValley

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 3:55:53 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: Please instate a public mask mandate. It is an easy thing for citizens to do to make the pandemic better.

Name: Kristian Dahl

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:00:12 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14

Testimony: Dear Assembly members, I am writing you to please ask that you implement a mask mandate. Using the Anchorage school District as an example of mask and distance mitigation, shows that masking works to help slow the spread of Covid. Our schools are open and doing well with mediation. We're asking you to please use the science based facts in your decision and help keep the rest of our community safe,Especially some of our children who are not of age to be vaccinated quite yet. ||Thank you for your time.

Name: Marnee Choquette

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:01:08 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Audience participation

Testimony: Greetings-|This is an addendum to my previous testimony concerning our community's fight against Covid-19. |I strongly support mandating employers to allow employees to work remotely if possible. |This was previously effective in keeping the spread of the virus low in our community. In absence of a mandate, employees may not be supported in their choice to stay safe and work from home where possible. |Thanks, Marnee

Name: Emily Fehrenbacher

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:02:17 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Ordinance: AO No 2021-91(s)

Testimony: I live in Sand Lake and I would very much like to see the Mask Ordinance put back into place. Seeing the daily COVID case count rise has made it clear that this isn't a matter of ""personal responsibility"" but it's actually a widespread public health crisis. Seeing letters and hearing testimony from doctors and nurses who are exhausted, and receiving no help from our Mayor, is heartbreaking. | Please do what our mayor has failed to do and protect our public health by passing the mask ordinance.

Name: Adam Hays

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:02:49 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: Please pass the mask mandate. Masks clearly help slow the spread of Covid and the sooner we do it, sooner we can get back to normal. Our community and businesses are suffering. People are suffering. Please do the right thing.

Name: john wiggins

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:04:07 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: Dear sirs and men and women of the anchorage assembly..| I am stunned and appalled, yet again by the abusive attempted overreach, control, and abuse with this latest ordinance to yet again|destroy the civil liberties, the constitutional rights, and the freedoms of the people who elected you, and trust you to represent, not just ONE side and freedoms of any issue, but to use your elected rights to govern, and produce solutions, which honor BOTH sides and freedoms of the people of this great state..| You are not exempt from ""government for the people, by the people, and of the people"".. You are bound by your oath of office to represent ALL people, BOTH sides..| I understand this pandemic, or whatever you want to call it, I call it lies, is causing havoc, again, depending on WHICH SIDE you listen to.. the mask is proven USELESS.. its like throwing dirt thru a chainlink fence, and forcing it upon the citizens of this city is a VIOLATION of private rights to FREE choice, and a demonstration of blatant ignorance and abuse by elected officials..| Any permission empowering the citizens of this city to ""report"" each other for violating YOUR Abusive mandate, is socialist, tyrannical, and communist, and a destruction of the very oath and constitution you swore to uphold..| As one of the ""people"" who elected you, and trust you to represent, FAIRLY, MY interests and freedoms, I expect you to pass a resolution which is FAIR, for EVERYONE!!!| IE:, those who WANT to wear a mask, let THEM wear a mask, and make THEIR own FREE choice to do so.| For those of us who DO NOT want to wear a mask, RESPECT OUR free choice!!| You have produced ZERO data giving you the right to violate our FREE choice and civil liberties...| You are REQUIRED to protect our American freedoms to free choice..| Let businesses make their OWN choice for mask wearing..| Stop abusing citizens,..| Partner with the governor and the mayor who are also elected.. keep your abusive agendas to YOUR OWN HOME, and YOUR business..you as leaders are expected to demonstrate exemplary abilities with these values!! shouldn't be the peoples job to expose the character failures of our elected officials..| STOP CAUSING DIVISION, FINANCIAL LOSS, AND DESTRUCTION with your fake, tyrannical agendas..| FREE CHOICE FREE CHOICE FREE CHOICE!!!!!!!!!!| We as American citizens are constitutionally empowered to make our OWN FREE choice about what is good for our PERSONAL HEALTH and affairs...you make it FAIR for public spaces,.. and then, you will actually be doing the job you were elected for..| Sincerely, John Wiggins|

Name: Moriah McKittrick

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:08:50 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Dear Anchorage Assembly Members, | | I am writing to you as a resident of District 1 Anchorage regarding Ordinance No. AO 2021-91. As a newly licensed registered nurse, I am eager to serve my community. Beyond being fully vaccinated, social distancing, and mask-wearing I feel there is little left for me to do to protect my community from COVID-19. Therefore, I am writing to you to state that I fully support a city-wide mask mandate. As community leaders please choose to protect the health of your community. Adopt the responsibility of slowing the spread of this virus, because individuals will continue not doing so without government action. I will do my best to serve my community under crisis care conditions, and I only ask that you do the same. This is not a political choice, this regards the health and well-being of our loved ones and community members. |

Name: David Johnson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:11:39 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I support a mask mandate. I will not go out to restaurants or other venues until this crisis is under control. |A mask mandate or vaccine requirement is NOT the reason our hospitals are short on staff, that idea is crazy!|Thanks, |Dave Johnson

Name: Tamera English

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:11:49 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91(S); AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES FOR THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Testimony: No on mask mandate. | No on enforcement for the mask mandate for all over the age of 2. | No on Zaletel proposal of a citizen-led enforcement provision. | No on turning neighbors against neighbors over masks, vaccines, or anything Covid.

Name: Brett Roth

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:13:54 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: Members of the Assembly, || I am writing in support of proposed Ordinance No. AO 2021-91. It is the responsibility of the leaders of the city of Anchorage, a city I love and am a lifelong resident of, to do their best to minimize harm from the Coronavirus pandemic. At this current date we are in a state of failure and seem more in legion with the virus than a city making responsible decisions for the public health. A mask mandate, while not the most effective tool, is a common sense tool to begin to curb the atrocious outbreak in our community. A mask mandate has worked for our city in the past, and I would hope that the citizen enforcement provision can be removed and be unnecessary as it is incumbent upon the administration to enforce the mandate in a thoughtful way. || I'll take a moment to add that Vaccination is far superior to a mask mandate but that is not on the agenda so I mention it only for clarification as to my earlier comment that a mask mandate not being the most effective tool. Vaccination with the effective and safe vaccines is likely superior to masking in terms of curbing the outbreak, keeping community members safe and protecting our currently overrun hospitals. However, if masking is what we are talking about then I strongly support it because the situation is untenable and out of control with the virus clearly winning this round of the battle. City leaders need to be responsive to the ""facts on the ground"" and its far past time Anchorage employed some of the measures we have been successful with in the past. We residents know how to do this and we know that clear and consistent rules work and ""free for all"" does not. || thank you for your time, || Brett Roth | Property Owner | Lifelong Resident

Name: Shirley Lunda

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:18:10 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask nandaye

Testimony: If the mayor would look at the layers of mitigation that the ASD has in place, he would see that its working. It's not 100% but very few students have tested positive. Why wouldn't we try everything in our power to save lives?

Name: Alex Baker

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:18:39 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14L

Testimony: I support a mask mandate in the Municipality of Anchorage. I would have liked to testify in person, but due to legitimate safety concerns I am providing my comments here. I would also like to add that these public safety concerns, undoubtedly shared by many, are a direct result of Assemblymember Allard's extreme and hateful rhetoric.

Name: Glenn Cravez

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:20:45 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Emergency Orders re COVID

Testimony: Please pass the proposed temporary mask ordinance. Listen to the health care professionals, not Dave Bronson about the efficacy of masks. || And the Mayor's argument that the ordinance is an ""affront to personal liberty"" is hogwash. None of us have the ""liberty"" or ""right"" to make our fellow citizens seriously ill or die. None of us live in a bubble, where our behavior affects no one but ourselves. || The Mayor won't put his big boy pants on. Assembly, it's your turn. Pass the proposed ordinance.

Name: Thomas Grenier

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:20:55 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Support for AO2021-91

Testimony: I support public mask mandates and the passage of AO2021-91. | Thank you. | | Thomas Grenier

Name: Carrol Lyberger

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:21:28 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Section 9

Testimony: I do not wish to have my rights taken away. If a person wishes to wear a mask than they should. If a place of business wishes that you mask up before entering their business, then mask up or do not enter.

Name: Elayne Hunter

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:26:23 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Covid-19 Mask Mandate

Testimony: I am in support of an indoor mask mandate. It was very successful in preventing hospitalization and deaths last year. Recent research on mask use supports this. I believe it could be important in our community thriving this year. We have already lost too many people and businesses. I believe an indoor mask mandate is for the greater good of our community especially our children and elders.

Name: Barbara Norton

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:27:36 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: mask mandate and other reasonable proposals for curtailing covid in our city and state

Testimony: As a health care provider, I implore you to pass a mask mandate and protect the citizens of Anchorage since it is clear our mayor and governor will do nothing constructive under the guise of ""personal freedom"". ||Our state has the highest rate of transmission of any state in the country. We are isolated and unable to transfer patients to the lower 48. We have always stood together and helped one another in time of need, and our time of need was about a month ago. ||Our governor has given hospital providers the ok to make life and death decisions about withholding care, and yet we have no mask mandate and no limits of the numbers of people that can gather. People are needlessly dying because of politics. This is not the Alaska I have known for the last 30 years. Please help us!

Name: Zoey Grenier

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:29:00 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: RE: vote yes on AO2021-91 | |As a member of the Anchorage community, I am deeply concerned with the dramatic rise of community transmission within our city. With our state population of approximately 730,000 people, and our statewide case rate of over 1,000 new cases per day, Alaska now has a higher rate of new cases than anywhere else in the world. It is this statistic, paired with the reluctance of so many members of our community to become vaccinated that has pushed Providence Alaska Medical Center to ration treatment, and brought the reality of a hospital collapse to our immediate future. Anchorage's hospitals serve a keystone role in emergency health care across the state. If we allow Providence to fully collapse beneath the pressure of unmitigated community transmission, we take out a crucial part of Alaska's medical system. | |This cannot be allowed to happen. | |Working together as a community to reduce transmission by mandating mask use is a small, and attainable step towards reducing the pressure put upon our hospitals. I respectfully implore the Anchorage Assembly to vote in favor of the mask mandate for all communal spaces outside of our homes, as set forth in AO2021-91. | |Thank you, |Zoey Grenier

Name: Jared Talsky

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:31:57 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: As a member of the Anchorage community, I am deeply concerned with the dramatic rise of community transmission within our city. With our state population of approximately 730,000 people, and our statewide case rate of over 1,000 new cases per day, Alaska now has a higher rate of new cases than anywhere else in the world. It is this statistic, paired with the reluctance of so many members of our community to become vaccinated that has pushed Providence Alaska Medical Center to ration treatment, and brought the reality of a hospital collapse to our immediate future.

Anchorage's hospitals serve a keystone role in emergency health care across the state. If we allow Providence to fully collapse beneath the pressure of unmitigated community transmission, we take out a crucial part of Alaska's medical system. ||This cannot be allowed to happen. ||Working together as a community to reduce transmission by mandating mask use is a small, and attainable step towards reducing the pressure put upon our hospitals. I respectfully implore the Anchorage Assembly to vote in favor of the mask mandate for all communal spaces outside of our homes, as set forth in AO2021-91.

Name: Keegan Bernier

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:35:39 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: I will keep this brief as you have a lot of public comments. | I fully support a mask mandate. | I fully support restrictions on gatherings. | I fully support our healthcare workers call for action. | Thank you. | Keegan

Name: Doug Robbins

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:37:14 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91, regarding public health and safety measures for the COVID-19 pandemic

Testimony: I support Ordinance No. AO 2021-91, regarding public health and safety measures for the COVID-19 pandemic, and ask the Assembly to pass this ordinance. | I am immuno-compromised by a blood disease, chemo treatment, and my age as a senior citizen. The unchecked spread of COVID in the community is a threat to my health and life, despite my vaccination and booster shot. As has often been stated, each person's freedom ends where another person's freedom begins. My right to life outweighs the right of others to thoughtlessly spread this disease without taking the basic precaution of wearing a mask in public places. Further, front-line workers should be required to be vaccinated, so they pose a lower risk to the public, or exercise their freedom to choose some other line of employment and remain unvaccinated. Further measures, including limitations and closures of businesses should be considered, if the epidemic does not quickly subside. | With freedom comes responsibility. That responsibility includes the enactment of basic health measures and compliance by the public, so people don't endanger the lives of others in the community. | Doug Robbins

Name: VICTORIA HUELSKOETTER

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:39:23 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: As a 4th generation Alaskan, a mother, a UAA Alumni with a bachelors of science degree, and as a public servant, I want to say how much I love this city and this state. || I am writing to show my support for the mask mandate. To show our community that we care about each other and to protect the vulnerable. No one likes wearing masks, they suck, but it's a minor inconvenience and a greater show of love, support, and respect for this community. We need to listen to the healthcare workers we once applauded for their efforts who are now literally begging us to make changes so they can continue to take care of us. Please, listen to the science, to our health care workers, to the people who care about others in our community. || Do what is right. I know that right now the right choice is not the easy one, it's a difficult decision but no matter what there are penalties. We need action from you to save lives. || I implore you to support the mask mandate, support the health and safety of our community. || Thank you

Name: Gavin Kentch

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:39:41 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Item 14.L, re: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am writing as a lifelong Anchorage resident with two young, not yet able to be vaccinated children at home. I implore the Assembly to pass AO No. 2021-91 to help keep our community safe. It is pellucidly, tragically clear that our mayor is not going to do anything about the crisis in our community. The Assembly must do something to fill this leadership vacuum. | | People are dying. Many of them are dying, unnecessarily, from Covid. Many of them are dying, unnecessarily, from things other than Covid, because Covid patients have filled our hospitals past the breaking point. This did not have to happen. Anything that the Assembly can do to reduce this human cost, it should. | | The proposed ordinance enacts sensible, science-based requirements, alongside an explicit sunset provision that should reassure anyone concerned that this proposal is untenably open-ended. There is zero scientific dispute that the proposals in this ordinance will save lives. I call upon the Assembly to enact it. | | Gavin Kentch

Name: Susanne Gionet

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:40:48 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: mask mandates

Testimony: Dear Assembly Persons- | |As a professional business woman in Anchorage for over 30 years, Registered Nurse, educator and mother. I want to voice my opposition about a mask mandate for the MOA. | | |Susanne Gionet|

Name: Rebekah Potter

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:43:55 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: Dear Anchorage Municipal Assembly Members: | | Please require masks in Anchorage. People like to say ""follow the science""; here's the science: | | A recommendation from the Infectious Disease Society of America: <https://www.idsociety.org/news--publications-new/articles/2021/idsa-supports-new-cdc-guidance-on-mask-wearing-as-delta-variant-spreads/> | | A summary of mask research from the Infectious Disease Society of America: <https://www.idsociety.org/public-health/covid-19/masks/> | | A collection of research on masking and other non-pharmaceutical mitigations (masks, school and business closures, stay-at-home orders, symptom screening, testing, contact tracing) from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health: <https://ncrc.jhsph.edu/non-pharmaceutical-interventions/?fbclid=IwAR2EMh3eaVmVzEdG9MZHRE-GD7EaVXISj2C1O1JLGiLV1skPTDigV2FriGw> | | Recommendation and independent study from the Mayo Clinic: <https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/mayo-clinic-minute-study-shows-masks-can-prevent-covid-19/> | | Similar evidence and advice from The Cleveland Clinic: <https://health.clevelandclinic.org/new-study-highlights-new-evidence-that-masks-prevent-coronavirus-spread/> | | ...and I could go on. Thank you to those of you who have already supported mandatory masking and other mitigations. To those who have not yet done so, please don't tell us that you know better than all of America's prominent, reputable health authorities, clinics, and research institutions. They are ALL recommending universal indoor masking where there is high Delta spread. | | There is little doubt that Mayor Bronson's refusal to enact COVID mitigations has led to suffering and death in Anchorage. (Again, follow the science about the effects of mandated mitigations in decreasing cases, hospitalizations, and deaths). Our hospitals are giving irrefutable evidence of the failure of his policies. | | I believe that our leaders and our community have a responsibility to protect the innocent, and many innocent people who have done all they can to protect themselves are now at risk by the careless behavior of people our leaders have refused to restrain. | | Those people who refuse to practice COVID mitigations are spreading COVID rampantly in the community, and innocent or misinformed people are being hurt. Figuratively speaking, their blood is on the hands of leaders who had the power to influence people's behavior and failed to do so. | | Please do the right thing, and do it right away. Take the advice of every reputable health expert and enact mandatory policies including masking that protect innocent people from others' recklessness. | | Sincerely, | Rebekah Potter

Name: Elizabeth Marsh

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:48:15 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91(S)

Testimony: I strongly oppose a new mask mandate. The people already feel trampled on with Biden trying to mandate the vaccine for businesses. Someone should not have to choose between going to work or getting a vaccine. That is a medical choice for them to make, not the government to force upon them. Likewise someone should not have be kicked out of a business for not wearing a mask. Let people choose for themselves and stop pushing your ideas and rules on the city of Anchorage.

Name: Ryan Walsh

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:55:01 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: It is past time we implement a mask mandate here in anchorage. We did it in the previous administration and it works- there are valid studies that show this despite the latest outdated ones bronson touted today. |It is ridiculous we have politicians dictating healthcare policy. | Please pass the mask mandate!

Name: Brianna Beswick

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 4:59:29 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I support a mask mandate.

Name: Sonny Fabiano

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 5:02:55 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: I'm writing in to request Anchorage pass a mask mandates for Anchorage Alaska. Masks stop the spread of diseases, germs, and other pollutants. || Doctors must scrub up and wear facemasks in order to protect those that are in surgery. They have been proven to be highly effective. And right now since Alaska and particularly Anchorage has high rates of infection and rationed care, a mask mandate is imperative. Thank you. || Respectfully, Sonny Fabiano

Name: Molly Towner

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 5:03:24 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: I support a mask mandate. Failing to take action, as Alaska's covid numbers skyrocket, is a failure of leadership. Thank you, assembly members.

Name: Melissa Lipinski

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 5:03:43 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14L ordinance ao2021-91s

Testimony: I fully support a mask mandate in the MOA. It is imperative for our public health and to support our healthcare workers.

Name: Brandon Wood

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 5:08:03 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: I am a resident of east Anchorage, and I'm writing in support of a mask mandate. In light of the skyrocketing number of cases across the city and state, and the fact that all our hospitals are currently overrun with COVID patients, something must be done to help slow the spread. A mask mandate is a simple and sensible approach. Contrary to what some claim, it is not a violation of our rights or freedoms. It is a sign of respect and caring for our fellow citizens. It is literally the least we can do to help curb the spread of this disease.

Name: Wendy Robbins

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 5:08:26 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: Thank you for working to protecting the health and safety of Anchorage citizens by deciding to issue a mask mandate. I am in complete agreement with the necessity for all people to wear masks whenever indoors in public settings and at all large group gatherings. | | The science is clear - wearing masks helps prevent the spread of Covid-19. The simple expediency of donning a mask should allow us to alleviate the current healthcare crisis and keep as many people in Anchorage as healthy as possible. | | Keep up the good work! |

Name: Sarah Phillips

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 5:11:24 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO-2021-91

Testimony: To the Anchorage Assembly Members and the Mayor of Anchorage: || Please let it be known that I am apposed to the AO-2021-91 ordinance. || I am appalled that it has even been submitted to the Assembly by Ms. Zaletel and Mr. Peterson for a vote! || It is discriminatory, anti-community, bigoted and does not support science either. If it did support science, there would not be an unattainable metric of 50 case per 100,000 implemented as a metric as leading scientists and medical providers around the world have indicated that Covid-19 is here to stay since it has been identified as being able to inhabit animals. It is biased towards the hospital industry (which is a business, not a charity) and does not hold the hospitals accountable for any actions or inactions that they may choose to take or not take. || Thank you for voting no on AO-2021-91. || Sincerely, | A citizen from District 6

Name: Erin Dougherty Lynch

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 5:12:20 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: Assembly members, || I write today in support of AO2021-91. || I am begging you to please implement a mask mandate to protect our community. I have two children (ages 5 and 2) who are too young to be vaccinated. A mask mandate is the very least we can do to protect each other - and especially the most vulnerable among us - while in public spaces. || Despite their ages, both of my children can wear masks for long periods of time. My 5 year old wears a mask for 6.5 hours a day while at kindergarten five days a week. If she can do it with no complaints, adults can manage it too. || Enough is enough. When it comes to COVID, ""personal freedoms"" and ""personal liberties"" are really just euphemisms for selfishness and hostility to normal, necessary public health measures. Please pass a mask mandate. || Thank you for your time and warmest regards, | Erin Dougherty Lynch

Name: Paige Hodson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 5:14:58 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: Please add my name in support of AO2021-91. Qualified and credible health professionals all over the world are advising the public to wear a mask when in indoor spaces, limit indoor gatherings and get flu and COVID19 vaccinations to prevent illness and death. We can not continue to do nothing and expect it to work. It is sheer negligence not to try to stem the steep increases in infection and death in our state. The mayor and his supporters arguments about ""liberty"" fail to take into consideration that the freedom to live safely is far more important than being somewhat inconvenienced by wearing a mask for a while. The loudest and least civil voices that continue to show up in person at assembly chambers are not the majority of Anchorage citizens who just want to live in peace, in health and with kindness to one another. People will return to businesses and activities when they perceive them to be safe. We can have safety and support our local businesses with some common sense.

Name: Sarah Metzger

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 5:21:40 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Anc assembly, mask mandate

Testimony: Please initiate another mask mandate.

Name: Tara Wheatland

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 5:29:56 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Item 14.L, Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am writing in support of the Assembly's proposed mask mandate. | | I think it goes without saying that something must be done (by somebody) to decrease Alaska's high rate of COVID infections which is causing harm on many fronts--people are getting COVID and getting sick or dying, our healthcare workers are overburdened, and our businesses are suffering because people are staying home until the pandemic has abated. | | If we can agree that reducing harm is a good goal, how to reach that goal? The most effective and least burdensome means of reducing harm is vaccinations. But not enough people are vaccinated yet, so we need another way to reduce harm in the meantime. Masking is extremely low burden, and scientific research demonstrates it is effective. This is a much better choice than more burdensome measures like shutdowns, capacity limits, etc. Until more people are vaccinated, it's the best, easiest way to protect our community. | | Much has been made of the argument that we shouldn't mandate masks because it limits our ""freedoms."" This argument, framed this way, is completely silly. Individual freedom is not, and has never been, absolute. In a civilized society, there are many many rules in place that limit individual freedoms in the name of public health and safety. For example, I'm not ""free"" to drive as fast as I want on the wrong side of the road, because to do so would risk everyone's safety. The same logic applies to masks. It is a sensible, minimally invasive rule to protect our entire community. (Of course, as with many of our laws, it would be really nice if folks voluntarily ""did the right thing,"" but it is often the case that a government mandate, with consequences for violation, is needed.) | | The task of governing is ALWAYS striking a balance between individual freedoms and the broader public welfare. Given the current state of the pandemic, it is appropriate to ask our fellow citizens to give up the minor freedom of being in public indoor spaces without a mask on in exchange for protecting the health and safety of our neighbors, the functioning of our healthcare system, and the economic interests of our local businesses.

Name: Courtney Weavwr

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 5:32:29 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: Good evening, | | I am writing to you today in hopes that the assembly does what is responsible. Alaska has the highest rates of COVID-19 nationally, our governor and our mayor have failed Anchorage. The assembly must step in to protect the lives of Anchorage residents. A mask mandate is one step in the right direction. Please impose a city wide indoor mask mandate to protect our children and the immunocompromised. It is far past the time to prioritize political party of the health and safety of your constituents. Our hospitals are at capacity and our healthcare providers are exhausted. The mayor's failure to intact any form of safety procedures has put even more lives at risk and forced doctors and nurses to make the decisions of who gets to live and who does not. | As a separate governmental body it is your job to enact checks and balances. Please, balance the chaos and enact a city wide mask mandate.

Name: Lowrie Ward

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 5:42:29 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate AO2021-91

Testimony: Hello I live in district 6, and I'm in support of AO2021-91, masks mandates indoors. Mask mandates are common sense and greatly help reduce community spread. Thank you

Name: Christine Cook

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 5:48:48 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: I write to express my complete support for the adoption of this ordinance, which I believe is an absolute necessity in furtherance of the public health and safety of the entire community. As a mother of four children in elementary school, in ASD, two of whom are not yet eligible for vaccination, I implore you to adopt this ordinance. Living through the last year and a half of this pandemic with young children who may be at increased risk due to prior medical conditions has been a daily test of sanity. Simple mitigation measures may be taken to protect the health and safety of our entire community. With the good news of impending vaccination availability for kids 5-12, some measure of relief is getting closer for those of us with children in that age group. Each day, however, brings a horrifying torrent of data about Alaska's astonishing failure to act in accordance with the risk. This Delta surge and its impacts on hospitals, to include rationed care, which is driven mostly by the unvaccinated but harming everyone and upending life, is an unending source of stress, fear and despair. I'm so tired of wondering whether and advocating for elected officials and politicians to act like the leaders they are supposed to be in positions of authority and trust, and ending up disappointed and enraged... and always full of fear for my children's very lives. The kids are back in school - thankfully masked, but even so all four of mine to have Covid tests last week. Three caught a cold that was going around the school (that's pretty scary, right?) and the fourth had a classmate test positive. I feel like we are in a crazy race to get my youngest two vaccinated before it is all but certain they will contract it through school. We need to stop this insane community spread of Covid so that we can keep its spread in the schools from becoming a given. This ordinance will help. It is the only responsible thing to do. I don't know how certain elected officials can, frankly, look themselves in the mirror without doing anything and everything within their power to prevent people from needlessly dying from this virus. How anyone could read the stories or sit through the testimony of the poor healthcare workers, who are traumatized on a daily basis by this horrible state of affairs while valiantly trying to save lives, and not take every action their powers allow to assist is beyond me. Such officials are willfully malicious or grossly negligent; there's no other description. I am hopeful that enough of you will do the right, sane and moral thing.... And adopt this ordinance! | | Not to mention, it would be great if you could everything within your power to get as many folks vaccinated as possible too, before more mutations take hold! |

Name: Allen Lunda

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 5:50:59 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14

Testimony: At the very least mask up.

Name: Louise Wood

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 6:00:50 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021

Testimony: AO No. 2021-___ | |1 AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING |2 PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES FOR THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. | |I would like to testify strongly in favor of the ordinance. I believe that our current administration is failing in it's duty to keep the public safe. In the early pandemic, March-April 2020, Alaska had a strong emergency order based on the advice of medical experts and we were leading the nation in public health. Now we are the opposite, leading the nation in severe illness, hospitalizations and death. The assembly and our mayor have the obligation to follow the advice of public health experts in the event of a public health emergency. The current administration is negligent and this negligence has already caused many Alaskans to die needlessly. | Ignoring the advice of our public health experts is ludicrous. | |Louise Wood PT, DPT | |

Name: William Topel

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 6:17:42 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM TOPEL | ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE AO 2021-91 | TO ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY & ANCHORAGE MAYOR | SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 | | My name is William Topel. Good evening Anchorage Assembly members and Mayor Bronson. I first came to Alaska in 1966 and have lived in Anchorage most of that time. graduating from West High School & UAA. I'm testifying against your proposed Mask Mandate Ordinance AO 2021-91. | | There are many problems with proposed ordinance sponsored by Zalatel & Petersen. |â€ Your reliance upon CDC guidance may be misguided since that agency has changed its guidance many times over the past 1 1/2 years. |â€ Your continued reliance upon using masks as the main tool to prevent the Covid spread may also be misguided due to the structure of the masks and the size of the virus. |â€ The municipality's Chief Medical Officer's - Dr. Savitt -- reliance upon the so-called vaccinations as the main tool against Covid leaves out known successful alternative preventive measures & cures other than vaccination is shortsighted. Just check with many licensed naturopathic & some allopathic doctors & successful uses in other countries if you don't believe me. I testified last November to this body about my successful preventive measures using supplementation to keep my immune system strong, but there's been no promotion of these alternative methods other than vaccinations by the muni's Health Department. |â€ This proposed ordinance does not recognize those people who have had Covid & survived & have acquired antibodies of sufficient & more effective quality than the current vaccinations, therefore, no masking should be required of them. |â€ Neither this body nor most private sector businesses are not doctors & thus should not | be requiring the use of any medical device, of which a mask is considered one. |â€ This proposed ordinance violates the 1st and 4th Amendments to the US Constitution and Article 1, Section 22 - Right of Privacy - of the Alaska State Constitution. | | This proposed ordinance is practically unenforceable. Are you going to have APD officers or code-enforcers check each & every reported violation of this ordinance? If so, I predict more severe crimes will proliferate throughout the muni as our law enforcement will be stretched then. If you're going to have people snitch on each other, don't you think you are creating an environment much like in Nazi Germany against the Jews and in the Soviet Union against people talking about freedom and in Communist China against Chinese Christians who want to study the Bible in their homes? | | Let's stop dividing the community with your government overreach. There is no public health crisis even though there are some Covid deaths & many hospital beds are full. Bodies are not piling up in the streets. Vote NO on this proposed ordinance. If it passes, WE WILL NOT COMPLY. | | | |

Name: Jenna Baldiviez

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 6:24:44 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: Please vote in favor of the mask mandate. This isn't about rights, it is about science. Our health care systems are overwhelmed and our small businesses are experiencing a slow bleed financially as this pandemic drags on. Help keep our community, especially our unvaccinated children, safe. Thank you.

Name: Margaret Kurtagh

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 6:32:08 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I strongly support 14.L Ordinance No. AO 2021-91 and its amendments. In particular, I fully support anything that will require mask wearing in all indoor sites at times of high community transmission of SAR-CoV2. Currently Alaska and Anchorage are at crisis levels, our hospitals are not able to deliver optimal care and our ERs are holding critical care patients who should be in our ICUs. The ICUs are overfilled and our health care staff are exhausted and severely stressed. Most patients being treated in our ICUs are unvaccinated COVID-19 patients and other Alaskans are being denied care. Science and Public Health entities have demonstrated that the best way to prevent infection and severe illness is through vaccination and mitigation efforts including masking and social distancing. Please be the grown ups in the room, follow the science, and pass this ordinance. || Thank you. |Margaret Kurtagh

Name: Sharon Davis-Lang

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 6:45:55 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91; AO2021-92

Testimony: Dear Anchorage Assembly Members, | Please pass AO2021-91 and AO2021-92. | We need public health measures as Covid-19 rips through our people. We need leadership that respects process with regards to Mayoral appointments with the Assembly Confirmation. Democracy is our process and we need accountability from the mayor's office. | Thank you kindly, | Health Caregiver, Citizen, | Sharon Davis-Lang | Anchorage, Alaska 99518.

Name: Jason Kwiatkowski

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 7:01:57 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14L

Testimony: I would like to testify in favor of the MOA enacting a mask mandate as soon as possible.

Name: Chaynah Jensen

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 7:03:48 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Proposed Mask Mandate

Testimony: Respectfully, those whom are concerned about CoVID have had ample opportunity to get vaccinated and are at liberty to wear masks. Others whom have assessed their individual risk and determined that a mask is not necessary - should receive the same liberty. |I am completely opposed to any additional mandates in regard to CoVID. And I believe a responsible governing body would equitably weigh the number of residents whom voted for a Mayor who ran on a platform of ""no new mandates"" and those whom are beating the drum of repression of other's freedom to choose for themselves.

Name: Joel Russ

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 7:37:32 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14L

Testimony: I am curious as to why the assembly is seeking a mask mandate, with fines for non compliance and a citizen reporting line. I thought this was Alaska. You keep stating a health emergency, but why was it only 1 hospital claiming an emergency? Why is the staffing policy of Providence not addressed? And BTW, in this medical emergency still had an outpatient medical procedure. Something I could have put off for months, but the hospital was able to spare a bed to sedate me, treat me and send me on my way. Not denying that Covid exists. I had a horrible 24 hours of it. I even went and got the vaccine. To appease. My doctor told me I did not need the vaccine if I had gotten Covid and recovered. Which makes me wonder. || Is the emergency because one hospital did not plan their staffing correctly? Will the new ordinance be enforced equitably? As in will the vagrants of Anchorage be charged for not following the new ordinance? Why is the mask that you want mandated not the one the hospital staff where when dealing with infectious diseases? || I encourage you to reconsider this proposed ordinance. Let it disappear.

Name: Kirsten Moore

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 7:45:02 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L

Testimony: I respectfully ask the Assembly to vote in favor of the mask mandate, as put forth in AO-202191. | I am appalled by the vocal resistance of those community members and politicians who would like to claim that a mask mandate somehow infringes on our freedoms. I am free to live my life, but I'm not free to put others in danger. I can't drive wrecklessly or drunk. I can't rent someone a house that isn't structurally sound. We have laws to protect one another, Please implement a mask mandate.

Name: Liz Harpold

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 8:16:43 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: Good evening Anchorage Assembly members, || I am an Anchorage resident, living in assembly district 6, and I support of AO 2021-91. || I would also like to note that the reason I'm providing written testimony instead of in person testimony is due to the likelihood of a large crowd of unmasked attendees in opposition to the ordinance drummed by up Assembly member Allard, , Mayor Bronson and blogs like MRA and AKW. || Thank you, and good luck this evening.

Name: Jake Metcalfe

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 8:44:57 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14I

Testimony: Please pass the mask mandate.

Name: Elstun Lauesen

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 8:50:44 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Because of health concerns (I am a heart patient in active treatment) I can't appear in person to thank the Assembly for considering a mask ordinance for the City of Anchorage. || To me the policy question is a simple one: we are either on the side of the coronavirus or we are on the side of the civic order that will defeat the virus. AO 2021-91 promotes the civic order and will help to defeat the coronavirus. || Mayor Bronson's cherry-picking of studies and issuing a torrent of disinformation this evening during the reading of his newspaper commentary was outrageous, as was the behavior of the church-organized cheering and flag-waving crowd that tried to turn the hearing into a political fiasco. The Mayor's claims about mask effectiveness are false and are contradicted by the consensus of authority with credibility; his claims about the benign effect of the virus on children are false. The truth is that long-lasting and permanent damage to human kidneys, liver and respiratory system are just now being documented on adults with long-lasting COVID; no one knows what the future effects will be on children who contract the disease, not even Mayor Bronson and his partner in disinformation, Jamie Allard. || Yet despite the demagoguery of the Bronson-Allard axis, and their noisy apparatchiks recruited from church pews, the simple fact remains, you are either on Team Humanity or on Team Coronavirus. Freedom and liberty is not compatible with a respirator. nor will their America be great, ever again, if they contract long-lasting effects from the disease. || I for one stand squarely with the Assembly's effort to use the civil order to break this pandemic. Those on the other side, I am calling ""human pathogens"" because they are working to help the virus thrive and are part of the coronavirus survival adaptation system. || I also want to thank those medical professionals who brave the insults and hectoring from the pro-virus mob; their expertise and professionalism is appreciated by most Anchorage citizens, I am sure. Finally I want to thank the Chair for her bravura performance in the eye of the storm! || Mask mandates work. They have worked before and they will work again. They are a pro-business, pro-human and pro-life policy for the city.

Name: Dawna DeWitt

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 9:14:55 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: No mask mandates or mandates of any kind regarding covid! Masks are ineffective as well as social distancing and lockdowns. This has been proven over and over by observing areas where they have been used and areas without. Covid is an airborne virus which is not stopped with any mask other than an N95. Vaccine mandates or passports will not stop this virus because the shots are leaky which allows the vaccinated to catch and spread the virus. Natural immunity is 27 times greater than that from full vaccination as seen in the latest large study from Israel. All evidence points to utilizing the WH9 pandemic response plan from 2015 which call for no masks or lockdowns. We can't continue to mask and lockdown every time Covid circulates. With leaky non-sterilizing vaccines and at least 20 animal reservoirs including dogs and cats we will never eradicate this virus. The masks we use allows this virus to pass in and out. It will not help to wear them. The virus is shown to float in the air for 2-3 hours and spread up to 60 feet. Any social distancing in indoor spaces will not be adequate so stop pretending it will. This is per a study done at MIT. If you want to chose to wear a mask the cdc now recommends an N95 which will protect the wearer. That is their choice. Children RARELY get more then very mild symptoms. More children have died in Chicago shootings than in all of the US from COVID this year. Do not put a mask on them. There are numerous studies showing they do not decrease spread of illness in schools ect. I have scientific studies and journal articles to back all of this up and am willing to provide it. In conclusion: no more mandates! Thank you from a Registered Nurse at one of your hospitals in anchorage.

Name: Sarah Haywood

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 10:47:34 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 2021-91

Testimony: I want to express my full support of this ordinance to lower risks caused by this pandemic. I am a hospital medical staff and masking is the safest most cost effective method to save lives, lower medical care costs, protect medical staff and keep our schools open. I believe more people would be vaccinated if politics did not complicate the situation. Social distancing and limited gatherings work as well but if we could all just mask up we could survive this wave of illness through the winter months. Please support measures to protect our community.

Name: Terri Lomax

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 11:11:21 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: Thank you for taking the safety of all Alaskans and Anchorage citizens seriously. I support the mask mandate and believe requiring us to wear a mask is a reasonable and easy measure each of us can take to prevent one more Alaskan from dying. It's preventative and protective while still allowing the economy to continue. Thank you!

Name: Jennifer Stansel

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 11:16:46 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: Masks are unpleasant, but they keep us safe. Wearing them is a choice, but it's the responsible choice. Let's set an example for America's youth by showing that we have care for one another.

Name: Kat Moore

Date/Time Submitted: 9/28/2021 11:33:25 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91 (agenda item 14-L)

Testimony: I'm writing today to request that we pass AO2021-91 as a means to help lighten the load on our healthcare workers and help to keep our community safe during these difficult times as the Delta Variant is surging. | As a musician and educator, I'd like to both be able to go to work and do to do so ethically. I truly believe wearing masks will help to reduce the spread of this virus, keep our community safe, and allow folks like myself and others to continue to do the work we love to do without putting an excessive burden on our healthcare system or endangering constituents who need care. Thank you for considering my testimony. | Sincerely, |Kat Moore|

Name: Lesa Hollen

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 3:33:09 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: Section 4.B. Why are prisoners and guards not required to wear masks, when they have the highest population spreading numbers out of any business or institution.

Name: Donna Brechan

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 7:27:54 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: I am in full support of a mask mandate in the municipality until the case numbers for Covid-19 are greatly reduced. The prior mask mandate had no true ""enforcement"" and neither will this one, but it will still be effective and help us out of this spike.

Name: Nathan Wiley

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 7:44:00 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I am happy to support masking in public spaces. If a mandate is needed to accomplish this then I am happy to support that. Hopefully my elderly family will feel comfortable visiting if we mask up. I think a mandate will be good for tourism and the economy.

Name: Jean Kollantai

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 8:38:41 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Agenda Item 14.L., Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: [please cancel my previous request for phone testimony] | I have lived in Alaska for 40 years, the last 20 in Anchorage. I was completely healthy until 3 years ago, then went to Seattle for medical treatment and find myself unable to return not because of the pandemic itself but because of the lack of basic public health measures by citizens and by elected representatives. Because I am very immunocompromised, my choice now is to sit in my livingroom for months on end or die--THIS is an affront to my liberty. Please pass the ordinance.

Name: Gary Steele

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 8:56:22 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 2021-91

Testimony: I support the Assembly implementing COVID Mandates with enforcement mechanisms. I was raised in a different Alaska than we now live in. My folks arrive in Alaska before statehood. While the self-reliant spirit was strong, when folks were in real need there always we always looked out for each other. There had long been a Libertarian streak in Alaska and a live-and-let-live attitude. But that had real limits. Your right to do as you choose stopped when it impacted other people. There was the expectation - since Gold Rush Days- that the government would protect those boundaries of personal liberty and maintain Law and Order. We find ourselves now in a catastrophically disordered societal event. Somehow we have elected two people to the highest positions of governmental responsibility in the state that seem not to know of Alaska's cultural history and values- who never knew the founders of the State, and mistakenly think their ideas and values are what the founders passed on to us. They are wrong. They are maintaining- in the face of the biggest life and livelihood threatening crisis since the Good Friday Earthquake - that there are no limits to personal liberty. You can do whatever you want even if it infringes on your neighbors rights- even if it threatens their health and very life. This is not the Alaska I grew up in. This is not moral leadership. This is antinomianism. And it is dangerous- as the increasing COVID numbers and lingering economic crisis demonstrate. And Mayor Bronson fails to see the contradiction in his positions. If personal liberty has no limits, then one wouldn't insist on punishing people for vagrant behavior. People are free - under your philosophy, Mr Mayor- to panhandle, to urinate and defecate wherever they want. You have no right to punish them under the US and State Constitutions, according to your view. They are justifiably exercising their personal Liberty. The previous administration and Assembly Majority are standing on the shoulders of Wickersham, Dimond, Bartlet, Sharrock, Egan, and even Sullivan and Hickel - as none of us who knew some of these highly competent leaders cannot imagine them not following CDC guidelines; can't imagine them not knowing what to do when the health community sends out a MayDay; can't imagine them not issuing public mandates to protect Public Order. It is exactly because so many of Bronson's tribe agree that there are no limits to Personal Liberty that mandates must be put into effect with consequences for not complying- just like there are consequences for vagrancy. If we want to maintain a society of Law and Order then we must have leaders that recognize and enforce the limits of Personal Liberty and model Personal Responsibility- changing my behavior when it negatively affects others- especially when it can and has killed them. Alaska and Anchorage are in a crisis - severely compounded by leadership that has departed from the values of the past that helped Alaska navigate the path to Statehood, survive the 64 Earthquake and flourish for most of my lifetime. We need a Captain Sully. Instead we have a Captain Ouver. No Mayor Bronson- those of us who know better will not stand with you as your actions continue to harm and kill the people, city and state that we love.

Name: Betany Porter

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 8:59:34 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91(S)

Testimony: Please approve the requirement of mask wearing indoors for the Anchorage area. Due to the increased health risk of the delta variant, the high covid case numbers in Anchorage, the overflowing hospitals, and the cdc recommended mask wearing indoors to prevent covid transmission it is imperative that masks be required indoors at this time. I am a mother of a 3-month old newborn baby who cannot yet wear a mask to protect himself. It is important that we create scenarios in our city to protect those who cannot protect themselves like the very young. Vaccinations should also be required for businesses with over 100 employees. We must do everything we can to stop the transmission of Covid and keep our city and state safe. Since our mayor and Governor won't keep us safe it is up to the Assembly to do so in this health crisis. Please approve AO No. 2021-91(S). Thank you for your time.

Name: Linda O'Bannon

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 9:17:43 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: September 28, continues 9/29

Testimony: Please pass the mask mandate to ||Protect all citizens and all front line ||Workers. This way we can defeat ||Covid and return to normal sooner. ||Thanks for your public service.

Name: AMY SIMPSON

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 10:08:32 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AR 2021-296

Testimony: I don't want to clog the building with one more person on this subject but I would like the assembly to know that I support a mask mandate at this time. The data and numbers support a community wide effort to combat Covid-19. I don't feel that this is a civil rights issue-no one is being muzzled here. We are simply working to keep children, who cannot be vaccinated, and the community safe from a serious and deadly virus. If people would get vaccinated, and our numbers improve, then masks and mandates will not be necessary. Please for the sake of all of us. Vote for a mask mandate. | I am the Executive Director for Programs for Infants and Children, the early intervention program in Anchorage. We have had to change our work with infants and toddlers with disabilities for the past 18+ months because of the virus. We are typically a home visiting program, meaning we go to the homes of kids and help parents with specialized pediatric therapy and education services. We have been helping families on Zoom for way too long. We need to get back homes to help children. The way out of this is through vaccinations and common sense measures like masking until the community can get vaccinated.

Name: Lynn Willis

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 10:32:58 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 (Mask mandates)

Testimony: ""When you are going through hell - keep going."" Winston Churchill |At this point in the pandemic Anchorage is ""going through hell"" yet Mayor Bronson has chosen to ""hold in place"". He refuses to use the weapons available to fight this battle relying instead on a libertarian populist's appeal for ""freedom"" to his supporters which has accomplished nothing to solve the immediate problem of increasing our capacity to provide sustained health care to our community. |His statement at the September 28th meeting included purported ""evidence"" to justify his inaction to bring relief to the treatment facility crisis. The evidence he presented is not conclusive; however, that was not the overarching theme of his statement. No, the theme was his defending against the denial of constitutional rights and individual freedom. He criticized the restrictive and invasive nature of mandating masks as a COVID control strategy. While a mask mandate certainly is restrictive and invasive that argument could just as well apply to traffic speed limits. Aren't traffic speed limits also very restrictive and don't they interfere with individual freedom? |Mayor Bronson's laissez faire approach has been an abject failure. Allowing a special group of citizens who support him politically the right to infect whomever they want, whenever they want and wherever they want is no solution. I suggest that you not lose focus of the immediate problem which is expand health care capacity. That is the crisis staring you in the face. You cannot bow to rumors of health care workers leaving for any reason and you cannot depend on ""Dunleavy's Calvary"" to ride to your rescue with help from the lower 48 that might not arrive in time or in the numbers we need |I support the kind of effort that was used in Alaska to suppress recent example of contagious disease, Diphtheria and Tuberculosis. Both pandemics required leadership to apply public health principals which included masks and inoculations. |Winston Churchill got it right - keep moving. |Thank you. |

Name: Cassie Ostrander

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 10:38:46 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I fully support all efforts to enact a mask mandate. As we saw last summer, masking and social distancing works. There is no scientific evidence that masks cause harm to anyone. It would be nice if people would choose to do it on their own, but we've seen for months now that a large segment of the population will actively choose not to, including leadership, so we need a mandate. We've needed it since the beginning of the pandemic and should have never been cancelled in the first place. ||

Name: Marilyn Jeffers

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 10:43:09 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L

Testimony: I am discouraged by your lack of enthusiasm for hard working citizens of Anchorage wanting to participate in the public process on 9/28. You are leaders, stonewalling citizens who want to participate in the process is lacking in character. It only took one look out into the audience to see there was a high level of interest in a specific item on the agenda (14.L). I'm embarrassed by how you handled such a situation, making people wait around till midnight and never addressing the elephant in the room. Instead of making it easier for the public to testify, whatever side they are on, you chose to ignore the obvious issue and run the meeting as if it was 'business as usual'. Instead of making them feel heard, you made them feel ignored and inconsequential to your agenda. This is poor leadership. Period. ||Do Better. ||Sincerely,||Marilyn Jeffers

Name: Ryan Coffey

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 10:58:32 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I am scared to go out to public places where people are disregarding my safety by not masking up inside sometimes crowded stores.

Name: Sara Juday

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 11:01:08 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: Dear Assembly Members, | | I am writing to urge you to pass the proposed Mask Mandate for the Municipality of Anchorage. We need to take action to slow the spread of the virus that is overwhelming our healthcare facilities and continuing to depress our economy. The Municipality took action in 2020 to slow the spread and ""flatten the curve."" It worked. It is well-past time to act again. Please save lives. | | I suspect that most of the pro-mask mandate testimony will be submitted in writing. Please do not let the vocal opposition who attend the meeting in person drown out the calls for reason and safety and the well-being of our entire community. | | Respectfully, | Sara Juday |

Name: Steven Coleman

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 11:40:21 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: Mask mandates are a bad idea. Please don't impose your fears on the rest of us. This is still (mostly) a free country. Uphold our freedoms.

Name: Constance Boquist

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 11:44:31 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Wearing of a mask is not overall harmful to anyone. I am supportive of a mandate to wear a mask in public with exceptions. Covid is deadly and to wear mask is courtesy to others' health. I wish cancer could be avoided by wearing a mask!

Name: Lonny Bower

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 11:46:58 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: To the Assembly members who feel it necessary to impose a mask mandate on the FREE people of Anchorage, I say this. Your days are numbered, you would better serve to resign your positions and let your places be filled by people who know what living free means! Masking is and always should be a personal choice, period! Meanwhile the football stadiums across America are filled with unmasked/unvaccinated people. Your decision to mandate masks is not only unconstitutional, its tyranny at the very core and what is your next plan, vaccine mandates? WE THE PEOPLE are tired of your disrespect for freedom and WE WILL NOT COMPLY with your foolish mandates! Resign before you awake a sleeping giant that none of you are prepared to deal with.

Name: Misty Worland

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 11:50:24 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 202021-91 & 92

Testimony: I am against the purposed mask mandate. If individuals choose to wear one that is fine but it should be a personal choice. Personal/individual liberty is protected. The citizens of Anchorage voted Mayor Bronson in. If that wasn't an indication of how Anchorage has felt through this Pandemic and the change they'd Hope to see, I'm not sure the assembly will ever get it. Stop undermining the Mayor and start listening to the residents of Anchorage. No mandated masks or vaccines.

Name: Christopher Irvin

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 12:12:02 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Given the unprecedented crisis our health care system is facing, I urge the assembly to pass AO 2021-91. Failure to act will have devastating effects on our health care system, our schools, and our economy. We stand to lose millions of dollars flowing into the small business of Anchorage from the military bases that can not allow our petty politics to compromise the readiness of the airmen and soldiers. ||Act now. Act decisively. Act in the interests of our city. SAVE ANCHORAGE before it is too late. ||

Name: Ann Keffalos

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 12:27:44 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Ordinance

Testimony: I do not agree with a mask ordinance or mandate. I believe we all are able to make our own decision when it comes to what we feel safe for our own bodies. I will never tattle on a business or neighbor for not wearing a mask. I also have no problem with anyone choosing to wear a mask. We have to be empowered to make our own decisions with our health. Since when was the government ever supposed to be in charge of my body? That is unconstitutional. ||This form of governing will destroy friendships, businesses and civil relationships. We are not called to tattle but are called to be kind and helpful. You will destroy what is left of Anchorage if this passes.

Name: Maureen Dilley

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 12:35:58 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Assembly Regular - September 28, 2021 Continued to September 29, 2021

Testimony: In regards to mask mandates , there are serious problems with blanket mandates. | | I have had asthma most of my adult life. Last year, because of the mandates which meant my breathing was impeded and I was rebreathing carbon dioxide my lungs were further damaged. I now have to use an oral steroid, and my lungs bleed. I also am on warfarin (blood thinners) this means that if I have bleeding episode in my lungs and am coughing I face the very real possibility of internal hemorrhaging which could be life threatening. | | Now the Assembly wishes to pass further mandates which will further endanger my health and/or confine me to my home. All of this is being done so that other members of society can continue to live their lives as they wish under the pretext of being safe from Covid. | | This ""safety is an illusion as there is no way of proving that the mask will prevent them from getting the disease that they likely would not have gotten in the first place. | | In order for a free society to remain free, it cannot take the freedom and health from one group of people so as to enable another group to live as they wish. |

Name: Karl Harvey

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 12:39:22 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: To the Anchorage Assembly Members, | I was very encouraged watching the assembly meeting last night seeing freedom loving individuals from Anchorage show up to speak about AO No. 2021-91. I was not able to attend and will not be able to in future public hearings scheduled but want to express my staunch disagreement to AO No. 2021-91 being debated. After reading the ordinance, it appears to be based on a premise that if everyone were to wear masks, the current health situation would somehow be mitigated, lessened, or decreased. If all the citizens in the Municipality of Anchorage would just be wearing masks, this problem would not be as bad. There is zero conclusive evidence that a mandatory mask ordinance would do this. A mandate to require people as young as 2 years old to wear a mask is not going to fix the problem. Two-year old's can't wear a mask effectively first. The number of sicknesses from COVID for this demographic seems to be negligible, so why even go there? To include this age group in the proposed AO is complete lunacy. | This AO will only create more division and animosity among the community. We are already divided enough right now; we don't need another overreaching rule on our backs especially those that encourage everyone to snitch on each other. | Even if this part of the AO is removed (which I understand may happen), it's still bad and ineffective policy. | What may in fact help the problem more than mask mandates, is to encourage the full use of all methods known to combat the disease. Right now, there are proven methods to treat infected persons, but they are not being allowed on a mass scale. As such, I can't help to think this is more of a reason for the health crisis, not because everyone isn't wearing a mask. For whatever reason, it appears that group speak is causing health professionals to shy away from using these available methods like prescribing drugs that have been proven to treat the symptoms. I'm not a doctor, don't pretend to play one, but I can read and there are ways to fight this besides isolation, vaccination, mask up and stay 6' away from each other. | Putting an overreaching law on the private businesses and encouraging neighbors to snitch on each other is completely against our God given right to live free and straight out of the playbook of historically very bad people (don't need to name them here). The Government (Municipality of Anchorage in this case) has ZERO business implementing this law. If a person feels safer with a mask, they can wear it. If a business wants to limit entry to those that wear a mask, let them. South Restaurant for example is one such business that is doing this now. Its not a law but they've made a choice to implement that and more power to them. I have a free choice to go there and give them my business or not. Every time I go by there, the parking lot is full. I choose not to go there but again that's MY choice. It is NOT the MOA Assembly's role to mandate behavior on its citizens. Again, I want to express my complete disagreement to AO No. 2021-91 and encourage a NO vote on this proposed Ordinance. | | Sincerely Karl Harvey |

Name: Michael Mitchell

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 12:44:07 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 (Covid measures)

Testimony: Given the record high numbers of Covid cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, I strongly support requiring masks be worn in public places. They provide a substantial measure of protection (the vast majority of health professionals agree) and are a minimal inconvenience. The Alaska way is to do what we can to help ourselves, our neighbors, our community and our state, and masks will help alleviate the Covid crisis. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Name: Clarissa Simnick

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 1:25:06 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: Assembly members, || My name is Clarissa Simnick and I am twenty-one years old. I am a resident of District One and reside in the Government Hill neighborhood. I am originally from Indiana and moved up to Anchorage last year with my husband who is stationed here with the US Air Force. I am unequivocally in support for a mask mandate in Anchorage. The small hospital system here has been overloaded with COVID cases, and people cannot get the proper care they need. Wearing a mask is simple. This summer, I was an educator for Anchorage children ages 4-14 and all of them were able to wear a mask with no issue. Personal freedoms stop being personal when the community's healthcare system is in disarray. || Last night, Mayor Bronson stated that many people have committed suicide due to COVID-19 closures. Comparing suicide and COVID-19 deaths is absurd. As someone who has struggled with mental health in the past, suicide is something an individual can control. Getting COVID-19 is not controllable, particularly as variants of the virus become more aggressive and can target vaccinated individuals, who already have done all that they can to not get the virus. || A mask mandate can always be undone, but deaths due to both COVID-19 and a struggling medical system cannot be undone. If we implement a mask mandate right now, perhaps COVID-19 cases will get better in Anchorage and we will be able to get rid of COVID-19 in our community, eliminating the need for masks. This pandemic is not going away anytime soon. By delaying action, the pandemic will get worse and we may have to do shut downs again. Actions have consequences. If Mayor Bronson does not do anything tonight about this pandemic, he will have blood on his hands; even moreso than he already does. || Thank you.

Name: Katie Severin

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 1:38:19 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Assembly Leadership: || Please, please, please hold the line and pass the mask mandate. Mayor Bronson may be a good and well-meaning man, but his refusal to accept and implement public health measures that protect people from themselves and from others is contributing to unnecessary illness, death, and economic pain across the city. We CANNOT afford - socially, physically, economically - to not have a mask mandate. I can hardly believe that in less than ten months our state, largely as a result of numbers in Anchorage, has gone from being lauded for vaccine distribution and availability to publicized as an example of what can happen when science is disregarded. || I apologize for not testifying in person. The level of aggression and simple mean-spiritedness that has taken over our public spaces and civic dialogue is absolutely unacceptable - and I am unwilling to subject myself or my family to it. || We have two unvaccinated kids and we, too, would like to return to normal socializing, regular attendance at school uninterrupted by COVID scares, and seeing friends' happy faces - their whole faces. The sooner we take the public health measures that we know work, the sooner we can do that. || As a former municipal employee, I'm so disappointed in our city's lack of leadership. Representative democracy is built on the assumption that our leaders will be willing to take unpopular actions when they are necessary to protect residents and uphold the health of our political and economic systems. Because the executive branch is unable or unwilling to do that, the Assembly must. || Please protect us. You may be the bad guys to the folks in the Chamber, but you're the heroes to those of us staying safe at home. || Thanks for your efforts. || Katie Severin

Name: Susan Soule

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 1:48:02 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I write in support of the proposed ordinance to mandate the use of masks in indoor public settings and large outdoor gatherings. The overwhelming scientific evidence is that the use of masks reduces the spread of the covid virus. The current data on the prevalence of the virus in Anchorage and on the huge stress on our medical system demonstrate how important it is to reduce the spread. People, relatives, friends, children, parents are dying needlessly. || It is horrifying that some Anchorage citizens, including some in leadership positions, refuse to believe this and for all sorts of surreal reasons. Some deny the virus exists. Some feel the vaccination, another proven way to reduce the spread, is not safe. Some feel masks are not safe. Some feel such an ordinance tramples on what they believe to be their constitutional rights. They are all wrong. They are a public health and safety menace. || They, at least some of them, are also incredibly rude. Their behavior at assembly meetings is appalling. The patience of you assembly members is amazing. Thank you for that as well as for the proposed ordinance. || Finally, for those citizens who wear yellow stars and make comparisons between mask and/or vaccine mandates and the Nazis treatment of the Jews, I'd like them to know I voluntarily got a vaccine booster shot yesterday. I would not have voluntarily boarded a train for Auschwitz or entered a gas chamber. The comparisons are as offensive as their behavior. || In support the proposed ordinance I join you in supporting health over illness, science over nonsense, truth over lies, life over death. || Thank you.

Name: Thomas Schmidt

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 1:59:12 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: Good day, Assembly members. | | Thank you for providing me an opportunity to give written testimony on this ordinance that is designed to protect the health and livelihoods of citizens in the anchorage municipality. | | Doing the right thing for the right reason is never easy and often unpopular. However, history has shown that those individuals and bodies assigned important responsibilities are hailed as heroes when they stick to their principles. There is nothing in this ordinance, in my review, that tramples on my liberties. Wearing a mask, in general, is inconvenient, and uncomfortable at best. But knowing it may prevent illness in others, and help protect me and those I love are good enough reasons for me. | | What I cannot understand is how elected Mayor Bronson can, for his own personal reasons, stand in the way of the majority of people's wishes. In today's ADN op-ed, he states, ""Certainly, there are many studies that support the use of masks but, as I've just shown, there are also several studies that have found masking and mask mandates largely ineffective."" Several studies? That is where he puts his foot down? So if doctors and nurses are the ""many"" but the skeptics and non-vaccine believers are the ""several"" how can he get away with putting the weight of his office in the minority lane and block to efforts to protect the ""many""? | | So, please plow forward and do the right thing for the right reason. It will be difficult, but it will be rewarding, to you as a body and us as a constituent in the end. | | Thank you once again for giving me the opportunity to give my testimony and listening to my voice. | | Thomas Schmidt, Anchorage resident since 1989 | | |

Name: Robert Allen

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 2:47:02 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: My first statement is NO Mask Mandates! There has been enough of the forced mask mandates. I travel internationally quite extensively. Other countries are relaxing their requirements for masks, and other restrictions. Europe opened up without masks and showed zero large outbreaks, Japan is looking to relax their mandates as well per an AP News report. I am fed up with people that may have hidden agendas telling me what I need to do to be safe. How many millions of dollars are going to these institutions just by claiming a patient has Covid-19? Hospital space/ER issues? Probably because they fired health care workers because they didn't want or need to be vaccinated, not bed space. There is no need for this cities government to inflict more restrictions on its citizens. We are well aware of the virus by now. Masks should be a personal choice, whether that be an individual or a business. A fully informed populace is fully capable of making life decisions and doing what is needed. Quit with the selective information you use to try and force your point of view. Allow all of the available information, and let the citizens decide for themselves how to respond. Having selected speakers be the last to speak on an issue to make counterpoints is just another way of proving that you truly do not listen to your constituents.

Name: Kathleen DeMichele

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 2:47:37 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14L

Testimony: Please support a mask ordinance for Anchorage. Covid case numbers are incredibly high in our state and our medical facilities are strained. The voices of those who do not attend in-person meetings should be given great consideration as they come from those who want to protect our community and them selves. I know many of those attending the meeting are opposed to masks and will not be wearing them; I don't want to risk exposing them of myself as I know they will not wear masks. I tested positive for Covid a couple weeks ago. Before I learned of my positive test it is possible I exposed others in public spaces (like the grocery store). While I was wearing a mask many of those I encountered in pubic did not wear masks and that concerns me. Our community is accustomed to wearing masks in public at this point and it should not be difficult for people to continue the habit.

Name: Daniel Russell

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 2:52:38 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 13

Testimony: As a biophysicist I would like to explain why Dr. Fauci was right, when he originally proclaimed, people should not wear masks because mask-wearing could do more harm than good. Mask-wearing and social-distancing suppressed the Alpha variant, because it needs to be enshrouded with a water droplet to infect hosts, but this has provided a huge selective advantage to the proliferation of the Delta variant, because it has an ability to overcome the effect of mask-wearing and social-distancing. Delta variant of COVID-19 has this ability by being able to withstand some desiccation (evaporation) of the water droplets that surround virus particles, after a sneeze or cough, and, therefore, travel much farther, as a finer mist, and infect people with a smaller viral load. So, mask-wearing and social-distancing by the public has helped to create this year's Delta COVID-19 pandemic by providing an huge advantage to the Delta variant to become dominant this year, and to create a worse pandemic than we had last year with the Alpha variant. If you mandate mask-wearing, again, this will increase the number of people wearing masks, which will provide further artificial selective advantage to even worse variants that can withstand further desiccation (evaporation) of the water droplet surrounding the virus particles, so that they can travel as a dry aerosol right through even N-95 masks, and infect people maybe thousands of feet away. This is because COVID-19 viruses in dry aerosol form are 3 to 4 times smaller than the pore size of N-95 masks and at least 10 times smaller than the filtration size of surgical masks or cloth masks, and can travel much farther as an even finer mist. So, mandating mask-wearing will help to create a much worse pandemic in 2022 of variants by giving a huge advantage to those that can travel right through masks, and infect people perhaps thousands of feet away from an infected and sneezing person. ||Sincerely, Daniel Nelson Russell, biophysicist

Name: Natalie Stefano

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 2:59:13 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I'm writing as a resident of Anchorage District 1. I put my full support behind AO 2021-91, the mask mandate. Anchorage's and Alaska's covid case counts are among the worst in the nation and the world. Access to testing and bringing in nurses from the lower 48 is great, but it's doing absolutely nothing to curb the virus. We need to STOP the spread, not simply treat the illness.

Name: Matt Davis

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 3:04:27 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO-2021-91

Testimony: I am writing to the assembly members to ask you to consider voting against this ordinance. I believe it should be left up to the individual to make their own health decisions. || My wife and I own 2 small businesses in anchorage and are trying to recover from the shutdowns and mask mandates previously enacted. || My wife as a person of color has gotten it much worse than I as her business involves more customer interactions. We should not have to enforce ours or anyone else's health decisions on them. || Expecting us to be the enforcement arm of the government is ridiculous. Please let people be free to make their own health decisions and keep Alaska free. || Thank you for your time.

Name: Faye Harasack

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 3:11:31 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: I'm a 69-year-old East Anchorage resident, fully vaccinated. I'm alarmed and saddened by the COVID surge of infections, hospitalizations, and deaths in Alaska and in Anchorage in particular. But I don't believe we're helpless in the face of the virus, if we work together. I'm convinced that scientific studies show masks to be an effective tool, reducing the likelihood of COVID infections in unvaccinated folks and also helping prevent breakthrough infections. I've been hoping to see some kind of guidance or encouragement from elected officials to remind us that masks can help us get through this dangerous period. So I applaud the recent proposal for an Anchorage mask mandate, and the courage of the Assembly members supporting it. I myself don't need any convincing. I went back to masking, after a few mask-free weeks, when I realized I might still be vulnerable to an asymptomatic infection, and therefore able to transmit the virus. I don't want to get sick and take up space in our overloaded hospital system, and I don't want to risk making someone else sick either. I realize some Anchorage residents feel strongly that a mask mandate would do more harm than good, and of course they have a right to their opinion. But I'm hoping that, for some people who are on the fence about masks, or just haven't realized how serious the current situation is, a mandate would be a wake up call. Thank you for the energy and care that you devote to serving our city.

Name: Michael Vechter

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 3:12:45 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 2021-91

Testimony: I'd like to comment for the mask mandate for public safety. Please mandate masks to be worn in any indoor space, at any social gathering, and outdoors when in a crowd. || Thank you for your hard work, and for taking my comment.

Name: Wilson Platt

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 3:20:21 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Hello, I am a resident of South Anchorage and I am writing in support of AO 2021-91. My wife and I have two small children at home, one of which has a medical condition that increases his chances of a serious outcome from a Covid-19 infection. Our hospitals are full, and our healthcare workers are completely burnt out. I urge the assembly to listen to adults in the room - the doctors and healthcare officials who are begging for action to be taken. Please vote yes on AO 2021-91. Thank you.

Name: Nancy Bale

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 3:24:15 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: As a school nurse in the Anchorage School District, I support the tone and intent of AO 2021-91. When the Muni of Anchorage mandated mask wearing, the Covid-19 case load was better controlled. || Although there may have been reason to be optimistic last spring, when the original mask mandate was rescinded, the Delta variant and lack of vaccination have reversed that optimism recently. This surge in cases over summer prompted the Anchorage School District to mandate masks in schools. Masks are doing their job. Studies have shown that transmission in schools is predictably reduced through mask wearing. I am happy to wear a mask in school and do not consider it a burden. I'd like to be able to smile with my students, but am content that it will come, eventually. || Meanwhile, we can take the school masking success into the community by re-instituting the Municipal mask mandate, as advocated in AO 2021-91, until the Delta wave has lessened and we have more people vaccinated, including more young people. Without a municipal mask mandate, I would expect a continuation of the high stress on our healthcare facilities and, sadly, deaths that did not need to happen. || I urge the Assembly to pass this ordinance. It is the right thing to do, from a public health standpoint.

Name: Wendy Gorski

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 3:35:33 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: Thank you to the Assembly for putting this ordinance forward in a time when leadership is needed. A trip to any indoor gathering place in the Anchorage municipality right now shows that people and businesses are unsure of how they should act and most are choosing to not inconvenience themselves with a mask. I do not think most residents are trying to harm their fellow citizens, but they do not feel compelled to provide others with extra protection because they are not daily dealing with the severity of this delta variant surge in our community. If compelled to protect others, I believe most people would choose to comply, so they just need this little nudge that leadership will provide them. || We know masks reduce transmission. We know that social distancing reduces transmission. We know vaccination reduces severity of covid19. We know there are segments of our community that are drowning and need a lifeline. The hospitals and their valiant workers need you to step up and help them. || The preamble to the constitution of the United States of America states that the point of government and why America needs the following Constitution is for the welfare of the public. As duly elected officials, it is your duty to protect the public. The Declaration of Independence states that even the vulnerable are citizens who have a right to their lives, and it lists life as the first inalienable right. || Those that think their rights to NOT protect the general public are more important than the lives, liberties and happiness of others are mistaken. They have forgotten that we have laws against injuring others (secondhand smoking indoors, driving drunk, rape, murder, etc). All of our rights to liberty extend outward UNTIL they infringe on someone else's rights to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. Please don't adhere to the murkiness of their arguments. || Do what you were elected to do. Protect us, your constituents, even those that do not want protection. It is your sacred duty bestowed on you by our shared Constitution and we, your voters. YOU are the imperative check on a mayor who is unwilling to step up to his duty of protecting his constituents, despite his personal views that their lives do not matter as much as their rights to injure others. || Thank you for this chance to share my support. || Wendy Gorski

Name: Christi Foist

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 4:05:20 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L - the ordinance regarding COVID-19

Testimony: I am writing to urge the mayor and Assembly to pass a mask mandate. It would be nice if the community voluntarily embraced masking, but since that's still not happening, the municipality must take action. It's inexcusable to let people continue to die and insist there's nothing more we can do. Only a weak leader says such a thing. A strong leader focuses on what she or he CAN do and takes every step necessary to protect life and liberty. But what does liberty matter if you're dead? | | Never in the history of this country have we defended unrestricted individual liberty - that's anarchy. Mayor Bronson knows firsthand that passengers on an airplane don't get to do whatever they please. They have to wear seatbelts and stay seated when directed to do so. They don't get to roam the cabin at free will, storm the cockpit or seize the controls. When people do that, we call them terrorists; we don't call them people exercising their rightful liberty. | | I further appeal to the mayor as a former member of the armed forces to follow the lead of our local military commanders. If they see fit to require masking off base to protect the readiness of our armed forces, should we not do our part to reduce the spread of disease as well? Or do we want to undermine the military in their mission to be ready to defend our freedoms? | | And it's not just the military. Masking by all in indoor spaces also protects the public health of those who choose not to or cannot vaccinate. And, unlike the vaccine, masking doesn't just protect against COVID-19, it helps reduce the spread of other infectious illness. Surely we can all agree that the last thing our hospitals and small-business owners need right now is more sick people! | | I recognize that some of you have opposed mask mandates in the past. But courageous leaders know when to admit a situation has changed, and their previous position doesn't apply any more. I urge you to take the courageous step of doing what's right for this city and the broader community. Since the people won't voluntarily mask in sufficient numbers, we need to pass a requirement until the pandemic subsides to a less-severe level.

Name: Anna Dugan

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 4:12:08 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am fully in support of a mask ordinance to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Anchorage. || It is important to correct statements made by Mayor Bronson in his opinion piece to ADN with regards to mask effectiveness. While his quotation regarding limited evidence to support the effectiveness of masking in community settings is indeed found in the WHO December 2020 report, he fails to note that the same report states ""Despite the limited evidence of protective efficacy of mask wearing in community settings, in addition to all other recommended preventative measures, the GDG advised mask wearing in the following settings: in areas where known or suspected community or cluster transmission of SARS-CoV-2, WHO advises mask use by the public in the following situations"" and goes on to list various scenarios such as buildings where ventilation is known to be poor (i.e. any closed up and heated building in Anchorage in fall and winter); public indoor settings where physical distancing of 3 feet cannot be maintained (i.e. any restaurant wanting to operate at full capacity, concert venue, bar, etc); outdoor settings where physical distancing of 3 feet cannot be maintained; and for populations at higher risk of severe COVID-19, any settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained. || Bronson chose a quote from the WHO out of context. It is important to know that they still recommend masking indoors when doors and windows are shut or when physical distancing cannot be maintained. || Let alone that CDC also recommends vaccinated and unvaccinated alike continue to wear masks in indoor settings in areas of high transmission (which currently is the status in Anchorage). | | Masking will allow businesses to continue to function while allowing our hospitals the needed respite from overwhelming case loads of largely unvaccinated people ill with Covid-19.

Name: Mike Donnellan

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 4:22:13 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L. public health and safety measures for the COVID-19 pandemic

Testimony: I am strongly in favor of the Assembly passing a strong covid health and safety ordinance. The preponderance of scientific evidence is clear that mitigation measures such as masking and capacity limits in indoor establishments are effective, and the horrific situation Anchorage is in now demands swift, strong, and decisive action by the Municipal government. The Mayor has clearly demonstrated that he cares more about pandering to his political base than doing what is right and protecting Anchorage's citizens, so it is now up to the Assembly. The time for coddling the willfully ignorant, stupendously misinformed, unbelievably selfish, anti-science vocal minority is over. The fundamental responsibility of government is to keep its citizens safe, and by all objective measures the City of Anchorage, as well as the State government, is miserably failing. The unthinkable scenario in which we are now in, with hospitals so overwhelmed that crisis standards of care have been implemented, is a direct consequence of the arguably criminal negligence of Mayor Bronson. I am all for universal indoor masking requirements, temporarily closing non-essential businesses that facilitate rapid spread of the coronavirus (especially bars, restaurants, nightclubs, and churches), capacity limitations in all other indoor venues, and mandatory vaccination of all Municipality employees (with the usual exception for people with a legitimate, documented health contraindication). The willfully unvaccinated, ignorant minority are too selfish and irresponsible to act on their own, so unfortunately, harsh mitigation measures must be put in place to reduce their negative impact on the community and hospital system. PLEASE ACT NOW TO REDUCE THE CARNAGE!

Name: Derek Reed

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 4:29:26 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Support of Masking Ordinance

Testimony: Anchorage Assembly Members, | | I am writing in support of the Assembly's proposed mask ordinance. Despite the naysayers, critics, and the willfully ignorant, masking works to slow the spread of Covid-19. Medical professionals are asking Anchorage residents to do two simple things to slow the spread and defeat Covid-19: wear a face mask when in doors with others, and get vaccinated. Passing this ordinance would help protect our city and is the right thing to do to keep our city safe and healthy. | | Sincerely, | Derek Reed

Name: Penny Johnson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 4:58:32 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 2021-91 Mask Mandate

Testimony: There is no science proving masks are an effective deterrent to the spread of Covid-19. There is no longer any contact tracing that proves the medium, location or source of Covid spread. The assembly has provided zero (0) scientific data to justify 100% masking from 2 year olds to geriatrics that masks are a deterrent by any measure. The medical community, the media, the government HHS have all failed to provide comprehensive data and information detailing sources of spread and any correlation to mask deterrence to justify 100% masking, fines or incarceration. The impassioned pleas and personal opinions in favor of a mask mandate do not justify or support this action by the assembly.

Name: Carmen Croas

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 5:12:39 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I oppose the ANCHORAGE Ordinance No. AO-2021-91 Masking in MOA. Leave the decision for owners of business, places of worship, and other venues to REQUEST their patrons, customers, or visitors to wear masks. | |Also modify the ""AO 2021-91_MASKING IN MOA_9-20.FINAL.DOCX"" to remove the line items 30-35, ""WHEREAS, Mayor Bronson when interviewed about the challenges the Municipality is facing with regard to the effects of COVID-19, especially hospital capacity, he responded 'I don't know what more we can do,' consistent with his stance to not to institute Municipal areawide mandates applicable to individuals and private 34 businesses; and..."" These words misrepresent Mayor Elect Dave Bronson and is poorly written. Interesting enough, this ordinance has been modified three times, especially the removal of enforcement options in Section 10. |

Name: Shauna Howell

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 5:21:56 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: I am a small business owner that is trying to survive the economic impact of COVID19. My business was shut down. I was directly told by the previous mayor's office in a voicemail that we were not allowed to do deliveries or curbside pick up. I received photos from people in Walmart & Fred Meyers showing empty shelves of the products I sell. We are open again. I am determined to serve the customers that were encouraged to purchase online by mandates. I intend to stay in business, build a strong, loyal customer base and provide solid employment to the employees. Creating division between my business services and any one political or public health point of view is not what we are licensed or in business to do. To ask my employees, who are just happy to be working to enforce mask mandates puts them in close proximity to people who clearly do not respect the mandate and feel very strongly about it. When the mandates were in place we followed the rules, posted the rules, and supplied free masks and hand sanitizer. If a customer came in and did not want to follow them. We served them with respect & at what is reported to be a safe distance. My employees are happy to wear a mask, if it is required for us to operate or to make the customers we serve feel safe. It is unreasonable to expect a small business to enforce mandates that even the city can not enforce. We have had an irate male customer locked outside of our business with a female employee trapped inside. He banged on the windows and threatened her for not serving him. The police were notified. Three hours later, the police called to let us know that because of their caseload no one would be coming. We had to call on our customers to ensure her safety. There is no way, outside of posting notices and taking proper precautions, I am going to create a divide in our community, ignite already strong emotions into direct confrontation and lose customers. It is detrimental to building my customer base. The mandates are made by people with good intentions, sitting safely behind their desks and being paid to do that. Not made by people working hard in a retail business to make ends meet. Quite simply, it is not our job to do this thing that you think is your job. I just can't bring myself to tell a veteran who fought hard for our freedoms that showing his face is the equivalent to indecent exposure. I am certainly not ordering my workers to be disrespectful to someone that believes the mandates are simply unAmerican. Emotionally this is the equivalent of telling them to burn the American flag in front of a vet. I also do not see how public health or safety comes into the picture by enticing someone (unmasked to yell in their faces) or be confrontational with someone, who just happens to be a trained killer. My employees simply do not have the training, skill or physical ability to confront someone and not escalate the situation. I respectfully ask that you simply find another way to protect the vulnerable without restricting free enterprise.

Name: Lindsay Standish

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 5:42:48 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I simply wish to express my support for the mask mandate that is being explored by the assembly. We are in a worse spot than we were in December, our hospitals are full, and I feel that it is negligent to not do what we can to slow the spread of covid in our community, particularly when not doing so means that there may not be hospital beds available for injured individuals that are not sick. Our concerned should be for people who, through no fault of their own, need medical attention.

Name: Walker Gusse

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 7:00:14 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L from 9/28/21

Testimony: Please do not waiver to the emotions of the few. Our hospitals are full, our emergency responders and health care professionals are at significant risk from more than just COVID. || We are at a real risk of burnout now. The governor brining in 400 personnel will not fix this problem. | Please vote science and logic, vote for a mask mandate with significant teeth to enforce it. |

Name: Marcia Hoffman-DeVoe

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 7:00:56 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am writing this in SUPPORT OF AO 2021-91. || Our community is at risk! What other disease does one tell a medical professional they are lying? This is a simple preventive measure - wear a mask. No one should have to fear for their life going out in public. Talk about economy - we have not eaten out in a public restaurant, gone to any public performances, craft fairs, flown to communities in Alaska, etc. as we normally would because of the high COVID numbers. Masking and vaccinations work. This has been shown over and over again. Please vote to support this ordinance. I really appreciate the leadership the Anchorage Assembly has shown in these difficult times. I support your efforts to keep Anchorage safe. Thanks you. |

Name: AMy STierwalt

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 7:33:06 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: Please don't impose the mask mandate again. We need to keep our freedoms as they will disappear quickly with this mandate. Having people tattle on each other is truly a reminder of reporting your Jewish neighbor during Hitler's reign.

Name: Deborah Burwen

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 7:56:42 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: A02021-91 or Anchorage Mask Mandate

Testimony: Dear Assembly Members, | | I am a longtime Alaskan resident (since 1975) and I was both saddened and angered by the scene I witnessed in the assembly chambers tonight (9/28/21). | | I support mask mandates and vaccinations and I showed up to show simple support for that view. | | I was very much surprised that opponents of the mandate were so vocal and flat-out rude. I'm sorry that you (and I) had to endure the frequent rude interruptions, gestures, and outbursts. From what I saw, there were both a lot of self-serving bullies but also some legitimately worried citizens there. Thank you so much for your patience in listening to them. It looks like an incredibly tough job to me. | | I just wanted to let you know that I support your efforts to enforce a mask mandate, because I do believe it protects others, especially children, who cannot speak for themselves on these issues (similar to seatbelt rules). | | Thank you for your service during these particularly tough times, | | Debby Burwen | |

Name: Courtney Carothers

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 8:00:18 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L

Testimony: I strongly support the mask mandate. It is devastating to see the state of the pandemic in Anchorage. This is a small step but a very important one. Thank you for your leadership.

Name: STEVE FLEISCHMAN

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 8:00:30 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I support proposed mask mandate AO 2021-91. We are in a public health emergency and the mayor refuses to take it seriously. Wearing a mask is easy and non-intrusive, and mask mandates have been effective in the past. I don't understand why they evoke such anger and fear in some citizens. Please don't let unreasoned emotions rule the day. Thank you for your patience and consideration.

Name: Kathi Smiley

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 8:07:38 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L

Testimony: I wanted to make my email sent earlier as my testimony regarding the pending mask mandate. || I believe Anchorage as a whole is under fire. The behavior of the ""red clad"" group proved my original thought that it was unsafe for me to attend in person to have my voice heard. || I believe this is what Bronson and a group of Bronson supporters want, that is, some of us to be unable to |voice our thoughts. || Just because the bullies are loudest doesn't mean they are correct! || It's sad that hard working, honest people are treated in the manner they are being treated. |I watch and read daily as people tell me I'm not worth living because I deal with chronic health conditions. I'm judged No one should be spoken to with hate and judgment because of how they look. || I will be the one not provided care if I have a medical emergency because of my chronic health conditions. Even though I live a very strict lifestyle; diet, exercise, and now avoiding Covid. For over a year and a half it's not been safe to go to medical treatment for my chronic pain, i had just started back and had to stop again because of the rise in infection. In case you're tempted to provide medical advice... I don't take pain meds, it's not an option. The anti-mask believers say I'm supposed to just stay home (in fear) so they can freely spread the virus around the city and fill up the hospitals. || It's tremendously sad we've taken this to this point, refusing to protect children, and those with weaken immunity.... Or even each other... vaccinated or not. Masking has been shown to work, ASD is a good example. There are many studies proving they work, our top medical professional are and have been recommending their use. || The arguments are frankly ridiculous, taking your liberty and freedom away. If I say I want to be a doctor, nurse, heavy equipment operator, lawyer, teacher and so much more I can't just say I am because it's my right I have to earn an education and be licensed for the protection of the public. Same goes with driving a car, licensing is required and at times it's restricted or denied do to vision issues, medical issues, medication use. You know for public safety If you don't adhere to the laws then you can be fined, lose your license or charged with a crime. Some things are not rights, they are privileges. || It's time to stop this pandering anti-mask crap, it's time to protect the citizens of Anchorage and get this virus slowed down || Please seriously consider passing the proposed mask mandate so this grandmother can continue seeing her grandchildren here and travel to see her youngest grand children she hasn't seen in almost 2 years. || Thank for all for your service! || PS - I have an RN that is part of my family that I care about (I care about them all) and is working the Covid front line!! They have been at the assembly meetings, please don't continue to allow them to be harassed at the assembly meetings... it's disgusting! || PSS invite only meetings scheduled by a sitting assembly member and the mayor don't belong in a Democracy it's the epitome of one-sided, closed mind, and used to control the narrative to your beliefs. |

Name: Maureen Johnson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 8:24:50 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Anchorage Mask Mandate

Testimony: I am an Occupational Therapist, have lived in and practiced in Anchorage for over 31 years, and I have my own pediatric practice here in Anchorage. All the independent business practitioners in our group, who work along side of me, have put a policy in place that requires masks, for ages 3 years and up, in order to enter our business. This is for the health of all our families we serve, the practitioners that work with them, as the children we see are unable to get vaccinated, and are vulnerable. ||The problem is, we do not own the building, so unless there is a city or state mandate, we can not enforce this if someone becomes angered by our policy. As you can see by the hostility of the anti-maskers who are present for the assembly, it is very concerning to us that anyone could invade our practice in protest, with intent to do harm. ||In the past month, we have had numerous clients cancel due to close contacts, and many children & family members who have attended therapy to later found out they were positive for Covid during the in-person session, thus making us shut down our practices to quarantine & get tested. This is obviously detrimental to our business & livelihood, as we can not work if we, ourselves, were exposed. Thankfully, we are all vaccinated, and our policies with enforced masks & cleaning, along with no gathering & no waiting room, have allowed all of us to stay healthy and not allow this virus to spread amongst us. This should be the case for not only our city of Anchorage, but the whole state of Alaska. | |I have just returned from a trip to Illinois, where there IS a state mask mandate for all indoor public spaces. It was such a great experience to witness total compliance & absolutely NO drama regarding such mandates. Alaska is now by far the worst for managing this virus - we should be ashamed. This is not political, it is a pandemic that is taking record number of lives, and filling our hospitals with the unvaccinated wanting care. Now we are spending (how much?) money to bring in help to the hospitals, when all that needed to help minimize this health crisis is a mask mandate. | |Another argument for those who care about money in their pocket: 250 people can be vaccinated for the cost of 1 treatment of monoclonal antibodies...and of course thousands of vaccinations for the cost of an ICU visit. That should be reported more. | |So I beg of you to help our state & those that live in it; if you have laws for speed limits, wearing seat belts, & drunk driving, there should also be protections against those spreading a deadly virus. You have a responsibility to protect the citizens of this city, and we have a right to be protected from those that can kill us. | |Thank you for your time, |~
Maureen A Johnson

Name: Jennifer Meyer

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 8:46:31 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Ordinance

Testimony: I am horrified to observe the insulting disrespectful behavior at the Anchorage Assembly Chambers by anti vaxers and anti science Assembly members. Intentionally withholding safe and effective public health measures is causing preventable suffering and death daily. Mask and vaccine requirements are the very basics of a healthy society during a global pandemic. The blood of so many is on the Mayor's hands. I am stunned the man can sleep at night. Comparisons between vaccine and mask requirements, which save lives, and yellow Stars of David are offensive, inaccurate, and attempt to trivialize while misrepresenting the painful history of the Holocaust. It's disgusting to live in a place where that act is acceptable. My recommendation at this time is the Bronson administration should be removed for failing to protect Anchorage residents during a disaster. He and his administration should be held liable for and financially responsible for the costs of hospitalizations and funerals of the COVID-19 victims. The old playbook of anti-science and the GOP we know too well in public. They used it to undermine tobacco laws, action on climate change and gun control. They use it now to marry the claim of 'freedom' with vaccines and masks. They forget freedom without responsibility isn't freedom at all, it's childhood. We need adults capable of making reasonable decisions running the city. Please pass the mask ordinance. I would also recommend vaccine requirements and passports otherwise I won't be spending money in any restaurants or shops where I have too risk infection with a lethal respiratory virus to spend money. Expertise exists. Use science to guide decisions not selfish political ambition and debunked conspiracies.

Name: Patricia Peacock

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 8:53:29 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask wearing

Testimony: I would not come to the meeting tonight because it wasn't safe due to the people there without masks. My husband and I urge the assembly to pass the mask mandate. It is not right that we should be put at risk by people who don't listen to the medical profession and cause so much illness and suffering. || Pat Peacock.

Name: Susan Ritter

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 8:58:42 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: mask mandate

Testimony: TO the Assembly, |I support a mask mandate until the numbers drop to below 25 per day. Thank you for listening to the diverse group of speakers. There is one among you who has shown lack of understanding of science, vaccines, healthcare and mocks our health care professionals. How sad to listen to the ill informed. |

Name: Maureen Johnson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 9:10:07 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91: Anchorage Mask Mandate

Testimony: I am for a mask mandate. And I would like to address the misinformation that our mayor is spreading, and allowing others to believe & spread mis-truths regarding the effectiveness of wearing masks. This is from Factcheck.org: <https://www.factcheck.org/2021/08/scicheck-misinformation-about-face-masks/> | |Distortions of Science/Mask-Wearing Proven to Be Ineffective|CDC study distorted to claim masks have 'negligible impact' | |Claim: Some conservative outlets and social media users in March falsely claimed that the CDC found face masks have a "negligible impact" on COVID-19 outcomes and that mask mandates "made no statistical difference." | |Facts: The CDC study actually found that state-issued mask mandates were associated with significant decreases in daily COVID-19 case and death growth rates. The findings supported the premise that mask requirements help limit the potential exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which therefore reduces the spread of the disease, COVID-19. | |The study found that mask mandates were associated with a 0.5 percentage point decrease in daily COVID-19 case growth rates within the first 20 days. The reductions in growth rates increased with time, reaching 1.8 percentage points within 81 to 100 days after implementation. | |Yet, conservative outlets claimed the CDC said masks had "little" impact, wrongly equating the decrease in the growth rate of daily cases and deaths with a decrease in the number of cases and deaths. | |"Because the growth rate is exponential," the impact compounds, Jos  Luis Jim nez, an analytical and atmospheric chemist at the University of Colorado Boulder who was not involved in the study, told us. "So, it's kind of like your mortgage - you change your interest a little bit, and then you save a ton of money. Because the cases compound." | |For more, see "Posts Distort CDC Study Supporting Mask Mandates to Reduce COVID-19," March 19 | |Thanks again, |~ Maureen Johnson

Name: Aidan Morgan

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 9:47:25 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am against a mask mandate. Though I am not against masks I am against a mandate not because I don't think covid is a threat but because I think sacrificing individual freedoms for the perceived betterment of the group is a greater threat. People that believe covid is a threat can still wear masks and tell their family and friends they should wear a mask and nobody can make them stop because it is their right to do so, just like it is another persons right to not wear a mask and tell their friends and family they shouldn't wear a mask, only time will tell who is right, but it is not the governments place to force citizens to do either. The argument is that wearing a mask is for the betterment of the health of everyone around you, and that may be true, if it is then I will wear a mask of my own free will but I should not be forced to. The government forcing people to do things because its what's best sounds good but what happens when people are forced to do things that might not necessarily be what's best and maybe the government forces people to do something bad or personally detrimental all in the name of the safety of the community? I know you may be thinking that'll never happen but I point you to every tyrannical government in history. It all starts with sacrificing individual rights and freedoms for the perceived betterment of the group and promises of safety and security if you just give up your right to x... then y... then z... Its a slow process, boiling the frog if you will, small steps of giving up freedoms and rights to someone other than yourself for a perceived benefit until its gone to far with no way back. This fight isn't about masks or health, its about rights, and I'm not talking about the right to not wear a mask but the right to live as we want; for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. |Thankyou for your consideration.

Name: Ardy Robertson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 10:21:22 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: Please do not vote YES on the mask mandate. There is no evidence that wearing masks makes the numbers go down. || We don't force people to exercise, eat healthy or avoid smoking / drinking. And that would keep way more people out of the hospitals than any mask. || Covid is here and it's awful, and it is spreading like wildfire, but all you can do is make recommendations; you shouldn't force any citizen to wear a mask. || My husband and I both had Covid last month but our immune systems did their jobs and we recovered. We don't blame the wearing of masks or the not-wearing of masks; we don't blame anyONE for our illness. In fact, we often get sick at this time of year; it's not a big deal. || Instead of a mandate, just make strong recommendations and ""wash your hands"" of it! || Thank you for time and willingness to serve.

Name: Vera Bedard

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 10:47:07 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: Dear Anchorage Assembly, ||As a member of the Anchorage community that cares about my neighbors, my family, and my own health, I'm writing to you to strongly support a mask mandate. ||As you know there is ample evidence that mask mandates help slow the spread of|Covid-19, something we sorely need right now. If a mask mandate saves even one life in our community, it is worth the effort. But a mandate will help save many more than one. ||I do not feel safe testifying in person at assembly meetings, as they seem to be overrun by people who care little for their neighbor's well being, and who can quickly turn aggressive. The overt racism, misogyny, homophobia and threats on increased display almost guarantee these meetings will soon turn physically violent if the individuals and groups responsible for them are left unchecked by their own leaders or our city leadership. The anti-mask/vaccine movement is one issue - the bullying behavior is potentially even more dangerous. ||But I do support a mask mandate at the ballot box, on social media, and with my own public behavior. I wish more of the people protesting urgent life-saving action would take personal responsibility for the public good, but because they will not, these mandates (and much more action) is necessary. ||Chin'an - thank you - you for actions that support lives in Alaska, that help healthcare professionals who are in desperate need of assistance, and benefit a local economy that can only be healthy when its people are. ||Sincerely, ||Vera Bedard|(Vera Starbard)

Name: Joseph Bedard

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 10:48:27 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: Greetings, | | I am writing as a life long Anchorage resident, Alaskan, veteran, and as an American. | | Institute a mask mandate. | | Responsible Anchorage residents, who have done everything to stay safe in this once in a century pandemic, have time and again have had our collective hard work, dedication to our community and country, and basic human empathy towards our fellow Alaskans thwarted by a vocal and irresponsible minority of individuals who are not demonstrating personal responsibility. | | Today, our healthcare system is under siege and have been ordered by our Governor to institute crisis levels of care. This is a direct result of a largely irresponsible group of unvaccinated and unmasked individuals flooding the system. The tragic outcome has vaccinated and responsible Alaskans being denied routine and life saving procedures postponed or denied, with documented loss of life that was not a result of a COVID-19 infection. | | One person's irresponsible conduct, claiming personal freedom for their conduct that costs other Alaskans their Constitutionally protected rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is the reason why temporary public health measures, time and time again were found to be Constitutional in the land's highest court. | | Please re-instate masking! | | Thank you, | | Joe Bedard

Name: Deana K

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 10:56:48 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91(S)

Testimony: Mask mandates are not going to address the underlying root causes of overcrowded hospitals who are rationing care. We will continue to have to revisit the topic of mask mandate until we as a community can address the issues affecting those who are disproportionately being hospitalized with severe COVID. Masks will not do anything but slow the spread until the next wave comes through. || The assembly needs to provide an ordinance or program effective immediately that monetizes and incentivizes individuals to be healthy. Vaccinations do not make a morbidly obese smoker healthy. Incentives should be monetary for weight loss, tobacco cessation, improvements in vitals such as blood pressure, HRs, or even A1C. Increase incentives for our youth anything that actually improves the health of our community. || The DHSS should/ could provide free online classes and park classes for exercises that bring the community together. There are numerous options and I would love to see the play everyday campaign involved for our children || Masking polarizes us. It demonizes politics and it does nothing to improve the immune function of anyone. || I therefore do not support this mandate and I hope what I shared can and will be used in the decision for voting on this tyrannical poorly considered mandate.

Name: Karen Cheung

Date/Time Submitted: 9/29/2021 11:09:53 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Item 14.L, AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: As a public health professional who has spent the last 20 years of my life improving the health of the population, I FULLY SUPPORT A MASK MANDATE to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The evolving science is clear that masks--in combination with other mitigation measures, such as vaccines--work. For the sake of our healthcare workers who are overworked, burnt out, and endangering their own lives to save others, please pass AO No. 2021-91. For the sake of our children, who want to be in school and socialize with their friends and for life to return to ""normal,"" please pass AO No. 2021-91. For the sake of the Anchorage economy, which will recover from this only when infection rates decrease and our hospitals are no longer in crisis mode, please pass AO No. 2021-91. The only way we can see the end of this pandemic is by working together, using all the tools we have; that includes masks, vaccines, physically distancing, washing hands, and isolating when sick. Please pass AO No. 2021-91. We desperately need this ordinance to beat the pandemic.

Name: Andrew Brennan

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 12:21:56 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Hopefully this will reach you all before the final vote but I want to implore you to vote in favor of this ordinance requiring masks in public. Watching tonight's testimony was extremely disheartening. Please realize that most Americans support mask mandates and understand their effectiveness. The folks who testified today only represent an extremely vocal minority. ||The truth is that masks work to stop the spread of COVID 19. Sadly, as our high case numbers indicate, the general public cannot be trusted to do the right thing and must be compelled with this ordinance. ||Please vote in favor.

Name: Molly Towner

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 7:27:54 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 2021-91

Testimony: Dear Assembly, |After watching the assembly meeting the last two nights, I am worried about your safety. The crowd that gathered in the chambers the past two nights has been given more than enough warnings. Please consider closing the chambers and moving to phone-in testimony. The yellow stars of David, the concealed gun found on the man who was asked to leave, the jeering, yelling, foul language... These people are being worked into a lather, egged on by the Facebook posts of Mayor Bronson. Please do not be intimidated by this loud minority of people- but please, also, take steps to insure your safety in these proceedings. |I support the mask mandate. |Thank you, Molly Towner (Spenard)

Name: Jon Frey

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 7:46:13 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91(S)

Testimony: I am in support of the proposed mask mandate as are most Anchorage citizens. The vocal, disruptive, inappropriate, and sometime violent minority present at recent meetings are not representative of the population. Their tactics are meant to intimidate the people into silence and are undemocratic. Please pass the masking mandate. As a healthcare worker I have first hand knowledge that our hospitals and my colleagues and I cannot take much more of this ongoing surge.

Name: Patrick Campaign

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 7:48:16 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14L Mask mandating, vote yes

Testimony: I am a healthcare professional. | |Undoubtedly you have heard enough from other healthcare workers about the devastation of Anchorage and Matsu due to leadership negligence and cultish group think, so to keep short: | |I support a mask mandate, and the relief of permitting plastic bags for work. The ounce of prevention phase still helps, and when there are people who neglect others and violate their social contract, the mandate saves them from themselves, too.

Name: Shane Castle

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 7:52:31 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO-202191

Testimony: Dear Assembly Chair LaFrance and other assembly members, || I am an Anchorage resident and UAA writing professor writing today in strong support of AO-2021-91, the masking ordinance. || I see many people in our community attending public hearings to oppose masks, but many of us recognize that attending in person with those who are opposed to vaccinations and masks -- or even avoiding crowds -- could make the situation worse. Hence, the email. || This is very simple. There is a pandemic. It is causing bottlenecks in local hospitals and killing more people in our communities than it should be and making many more severely ill. Vaccinations and masks work. CDC data bears this out regardless of red herrings tossed out by detractors. Our mayor is refusing to act, putting his head in the sand for the sake of political expediency, so it is incumbent upon you to act, and I applaud you, especially in light of the aggression some in this community have exhibited of late. || Some have likened mask mandates to tyranny. Freedom is not some cheap thing, the mere right to bare your lips, teeth, nose in any and all situations. The speech these people engage in is an expression of a true freedom, and it has not been abridged. The law, on the other hand, does exist to protect people from one another. If all people were reasonable and compassionate, rather than belligerent, ignorant, and cruel, we would not need laws. It is an unfortunate fact of society that sometimes people are dangers to one another, and no amount of diplomacy and evidence will persuade them to alter their behavior. It is at these times that laws must be applied to prioritize the commonwealth and protect the vulnerable. || Some are likening mask mandates to the Holocaust. This is an affront to all those who actually suffered the terrors of the fascist regime. It is an absurdly ahistorical and diminishing view, to think that being compelled to sometimes wear a cloth mask during temporary spikes in a global pandemic is somehow equal to being torn from your home, robbed of your worldly possessions, put on a train, dumped at a depot, humiliated, separated from loved ones, worked and starved to the bone, frozen, beaten, raped, tortured, gassed or shot, and dumped in a mass grave or incinerated all because of your religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or place of origin. Such a comparison makes light of true suffering. Claiming victim status for being told to sometimes wear a surgical mask that will protect others from getting sick and dying is self-aggrandizing, self-pitying, and morally suspect. || I recognize our shared humanity. I recognize that people ardently opposed to mask mandates have been lied to and manipulated by people they trust. I recognize that they too experience hardships and that they probably believe they are doing the right thing. I even applaud them for being civically engaged. However, we cannot trust them to take the medical needs of their neighbors seriously or to take basic precautions that can protect others, and when that is the case, it is the duty of elected officials to act in the public interest, however unpopular it may be. || Thank you for your time and for enduring scorn in your push to pass this ordinance. It is the right, civic-minded thing to do. || Sincerely, || Shane Castle

Name: Cathy Duxbury

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 8:08:08 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: I am totally against this. What are you thinking- we will just lock our office front door and not let anyone in who could report all of us vaccinated employees not wearing a mask. Will you send SWAT to beat down our door and arrest us? I will shop online and hurt the economy and then you will have no money to spend. || Commissioner Crum said today the curve is flattening the huge numbers are a backlog which is over. || Most assembly members just want to do the opposite of the Mayor. Had we not gaurded the election counting area you would have found a way to make Communist Dunbar the Mayor and we would be just like DC. The assembly acts like the Squad. We see pictures of Constant partying with no mask? Really? || I actually think Providence has manufactured this as well. Nobody believes anything you say or do | BTW - I am sorry LaFrance has until 23 - I will vote for the town drunk before I would ever vote for her.

Name: Catherine Ducasse

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 8:14:49 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91(S)

Testimony: Dear Anchorage Assembly Members, | | I am a registered nurse in Anchorage. I am writing to you in support of AO No. 2021-91(S), the mask ordinance. With the recent increase in COVID case counts and the lagging vaccination rates in our city and our state, it is clear that non-pharmaceutical interventions are absolutely necessary to contain this virus that is damaging our community. | | The most current research published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other reputable scientific organizations supports the efficacy of mask use to decrease the spread of contagious diseases such as COVID-19. In order to save lives, it is vital that our residents wear masks when in contact with non-household members, and to employ other mitigation measures such as physical distancing, until such time as daily case numbers significantly decline and our vaccination rate is high enough to provide protective immunity to our entire community. | | Please pass AO No. 2021-91(S), the mask ordinance. | | Thank you for your time. | | Sincerely, | | Catherine Ducasse, RN

Name: Jill Rush

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 8:23:07 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: The court system, the hospitals, physicians, school officials - all our important elements of our society. And all have taken this pandemic so seriously as to fully alter their day-to-day operations. The least the municipality can do for its citizens is to be as attentive. Please, on behalf of all citizens enact a mandate that will give more people a fighting chance to survive this virus. Thank you

Name: Jimmy Stewart

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 8:56:32 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I understand a mask mandate is in consideration. I request you do not employ a mask mandate. There are so many people already vaccinated and people like who have had COVID, the populous doesn't need to be required to mask. People are COVID and is only a flu and obviously is not sending people to the hospitals since the number of people sick in the hospitals is going down, even with the rise in cases. Look at the numbers and science. Monoclonal infusion should made more available, it helped me to have only a mild case of COVID. Do more to prevent people from going to the hospital. The mask mandate is not warranted. Never have we in history ordered people to wear mask during flu season. The numbers are so incremental going to the hospital compared to the daily case count seems to indicate nearly all are having a mild reaction to this. We need to quit scaring people and |making people wear masks scares people. The numbers reflect the mildness if we are having a 1000 a day getting it but the statewide hospital count has gone down. Let's be honest

Name: Jade Miller

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 9:03:16 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: Please implement and enforce a mask mandate in public indoor spaces and private businesses. It is a simple action that can make a significant difference in slowing transmission of covid-19. Thank you.

Name: Katy Hogan

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 9:19:59 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 2021-91

Testimony: I support the mask mandate 2021-91. Masking is shown to be an effective tool to protect the community from the spread of Covid. |Additionally, Ms. Allard's coaching and guiding of public testimony through her ""follow up questions"" are inappropriate and a waste of the public's time. She was feeding lines to those testifying and guiding them with what to say, and I ask that this practice not be allowed to continue. |Members of the assembly who were on the receiving end of intimidation, racial, and homophobic abuse - I stand with you and encourage the assembly to denounce such hateful rhetoric. There is no place for that type of behavior. |Again, I strongly support 2021-91. Thank you.

Name: Shauna Pajak

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 9:56:39 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91 Mask Mandate

Testimony: To all Anchorage Assembly Members, |Thank you for your enlightened direction for the needs of Anchorage. We are like no where else and have a diverse population. The needs of our community have been served well by the Assembly under greater leadership than we currently have. Continue to have the perception to safely guide our city to lower COVID positive numbers by voting for a masking policy that insists on wearing masks inside buildings like our business, Cafe Amsterdam. Community health is primary to individual rights at a time when we are having over a thousand positives per day. My grandchildren, employees, and customers are counting on me to keep them safe. Those who value their personal rights more than our duty to contribute to community safety by vaccinating, masking in public, and social distancing are harming the medical staff trying to save every sick person without regard to politics. Without a uniform policy on mask wearing for Anchorage this situation will take a unprecedented toll both economically and emotionally. The division of our community over paper masks will go down as the worst failure of our state. Remember we may not be able to change other's minds but we still have to carry this whole community to safer ground with our actions now. |Thank you and be safe, Shauna Pajak owner of Cafe Amsterdam

Name: Sherrie Greenshields

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 10:15:30 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: I support the mask mandate that the Anchorage Assembly is proposing. I believe a mask mandate would help get our infection rates under control and help with the surge of cases overwhelming our hospitals. I have stopped going out to restaurants and stores in Anchorage with this current surge. To help our economy we need take responsibility and a mask mandate is a start.

Name: Peggy Doty

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 10:31:56 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ao2021-91 mask ordinance

Testimony: I fully support Mayor Bronson and how he is handling the covid 19 issue.. He expressed my sentiments very eloquently and exactly as I would express them. He is doing an excellent job and I commend him for his hard work. The assembly is WRONG in what it is trying to do and in their constant attempts at a coup, trying to circumvent the mayor and the express wishes of the residents of Anchorage. We voted for Dave Bronson to be Mayor of Anchorage and run the city, NOT YOU and Especially Not F. Dunbar. A mask mandate is not needed. You should NOT be trying to control and tell everyone what to do based on your Opinion. You wouldn't like it if we were on the assembly and controlled you and told you what to do. Additionally, neither you nor any of the higher Dem food chain members follow your own rules as evidenced by your pictures and those of Obama, Pelosi, Newsom, et.al. your proposed fines are excessive and inappropriate, meant to be punitive to punish people for not just doing what you tell them to. If you wanted to actually do something about covid, get rid of gain of function experiments and Dr Fauci who funded them.

Name: Jessie Menkens

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 10:40:21 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. 2021-91

Testimony: Dear Anchorage Assembly Members, | | My name is Jessie Menkens and I am representing myself with this written testimony. I was fortunate to grow up here in Anchorage and my husband and I are now raising our two children here. We love our community. Last year we bought a home in College Gate, and we own property in the Eklutna Valley. | | I am writing to urge you to vote in support of Ordinance No. AO 2021-91. | | Furthermore, the hate speech, disrespectful language, and disruptive behavior from members of our community in Assembly Chambers recently is wrong and should be shown zero tolerance. | | Regardless of how one feels about the proposed ordinance to temporarily mask indoors in Anchorage - no one has the right to impede the public process and act in a way that physically and emotionally threatens public officials and fellow residents. | | Make no mistake, this ordinance isn't tearing our city apart - it runs much deeper than that. I see shades of the same furor we saw on Jan. 6th, here in Anchorage, and it's been here gaining steam, bubbling to the surface. Yes, we need to listen closely and better understand the values and fears of those who feel unheard, and don't believe in science, masks, and the threat of the COVID-19 virus. But we cannot put the whole of public health in peril in favor of fear and political gain. Political trust is at an all-time low right now. We see it and feel it everywhere. It is my sincere hope that you will not be intimidated by this political climate, and these outbursts and threats. | | I respectfully request that you vote for public health and trust in science. I appreciate the hard work you are undertaking and the time you are taking to sincerely listen. For all the insults and personal attacks you have endured, I hope you know how many of us value your service and respect you, whether we agree or not. | | Please support Ordinance No. AO 2021-91. All factors considered, it is the right thing to do. Thank you. | | Sincerely, | Jessie Menkens |

Name: Jamelia Saied

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 11:00:42 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: mask mandate

Testimony: I am saddened, disappointed, and dismayed watching the Assembly meetings Tuesday and Wednesday. Saddened and disappointed that Anchorage has come to this stage of divisiveness and lack of respect for fellow citizens, especially our health care workers who are doing their best to save lives. Dismayed that a public health issue has become political. I am writing to you because I do not want you to conclude that the overwhelming amount of representation at the Assembly by those opposed to a mask mandate represents the opinion of the majority in Anchorage. Many individuals are similar to me: either elderly, immuno-compromised, or simply afraid to be present in a large crowd of unmasked, unvaccinated individuals. We do not want to put our lives at risk by potentially being exposed to covid-19. We strongly encourage you to vote in favor of a mask mandate. Although the Bronson administration will do nothing to enforce it, I would like to believe that having such an ordinance in place would encourage most citizens to abide by the ordinance and wear masks. it is only one small step in the battle against this enemy, who doesn't care what your politics are, but it is an important one.

Name: Candace Frye

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 11:06:46 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: |I do not support the mask mandate.

Name: Charles Gilbert

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 11:18:08 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 13. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I support the proposed mask mandate. It's a reasonable and necessary measure to take to help minimize the transmission and spread of Covid 19. | | I do not support the private citizen enforcement of the mandate. I believe that would cause undue animosity. | | Thank you to the Assembly members who proposed this ordinance, who are doing a great public service. A abhor the vitriol that such good public officials are being subjected to, when they are trying to care for the people of Anchorage.

Name: John Braden

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 11:26:16 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I support AO 2021-91.

Name: MAGGIE KELLY

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 11:35:06 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I ENCOURAGE THE ASSEMBLY TO ADOPT AO-2021-91 TO PROVIDE SAFETY MEASURES TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF ANCHORAGE CITIZENS AND VISITORS AND DIMINISH THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 IN ORDER TO AVOID THE NEED FOR MANDATES THAT WOULD CAUSE LIMITATIONS ON LOCAL COMMERCE.

Name: Matt Johnson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 11:59:20 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Hello and thank you for this opportunity to submit written comments regarding AO 2021-91. | |My name is Matt Johnson and I'm a lifelong resident of Assembly District 4. I'm president of Northstar Community Council but my comments here reflect my own views and not necessarily the views of the membership of NSCC. | |I support a mask mandate in public spaces in the Municipality of Anchorage. Based on my reading of CDC guidelines I believe masks are an effective tool for controlling the spread of SARS-CoV-2. | |We need an all-of-the-above strategy to beat this virus. We need to use all of the tools available to us. We need masks, vaccinations, and social distancing to reverse the disastrous trends we are seeing throughout our community. | |We are a nation of laws. With rights come responsibilities. Responsible citizens of the Municipality of Anchorage are willing and able to comply with an emergency mask mandate to protect ourselves and our fellow citizens, as well as to get our economy back on track. A healthy economy requires healthy citizens. | |Thank you, | |Matt Johnson |907-223-3986

Name: Ellen Segal

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 12:16:11 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Assembly Regular - September 28, 2021 Continued to September 30, 2021
9/30/2021 6:00 PM

Testimony: Mask Mandate: ||Science matters. Statistics matter. Masking matters. Please make it happen. This time around with the COVID-19 Delta Variant it is more serious. Hospitals full. More deaths. ||Why is there even a discussion. Where is the common sense? ||Thank you. ||

Name: Margaret Nelson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 12:41:50 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: Dear Assembly members especially Forrest and Pete: | I am an East Anchorage resident. | I encourage you to table this ordinance and stop the charade that is happening now for the 3rd night in a row at the assembly meetings. It is clear that whatever you do as a body you will create ire with one side or the other. All you are doing now is wasting your time and not doing the people's business. | You can take up other health and safety actions that are more reasonable--meaning not pitting one resident against another--at the next assembly meeting. | Thank you, | Margaret |

Name: Karl Coulombe

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 1:08:51 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance no. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am a veteran and lifelong resident of Alaska who has lived and worked in the Anchorage Municipality for over 20 years. I love Alaska, am raising a family here, and wish to remain until the day I die. I have always opposed the amount of control the federal government of the United States has over Alaskan affairs, and am concerned about recent events with regards to AO 2021-91. || I find it disturbing that Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson seems to be attempting to influence the politics of Anchorage by threatening the flow of money out of the base into the local economy. In a memorandum released on September 28, Colonel Kirsten Aguilar, the 673d Air Base Wing Commander, directed ""personnel who live, work and recreate on JBER"" to ""avoid activities and establishments that do not utilize COVID mitigation controls...[which] includes mandatory mask requirements, social distancing, proof of vaccination status, or proof of a negative COVID test."" Furthermore, the memorandum states that ""entry into and attendance at restaurants, bars, clubs, concerts, indoor sporting events, and other non-essential activities without 'COVID mitigation controls' is not permitted."" This is a clear attempt to undermine our duly elected mayor's stance on unconstitutional mandates on local businesses. Coincidentally, the memorandum was released on the same day the Assembly planned to address AO 2021-91. || It is highly suspicious that members of the Anchorage Assembly have cited JBER's declaration of a public health emergency in a proposed ordinance mere days following the base's decision, especially considering the timing of this memorandum's release by Colonel Aguilar. It appears that the military installation is attempting to blackmail the city of Anchorage into falling in line with the totalitarian attitudes of the federal government, and it seems there are Assembly members who are complicit in this effort. || I implore the Assembly: do not allow the federal government to strong-arm Anchorage into compliance. Please dismiss this ordinance.

Name: Grant Robinson

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 1:11:27 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO-2021-092

Testimony: [Estimated reading time: 3:02] | Sept. 30, 2021 | Dear members of the Anchorage Assembly, | My name is Grant Robinson and I live in Fairview. | I am a Christian who affirms the Nicene Creed. As such, my Christian worldview influences the way I view all things. I do not expect those with different beliefs to agree with me. Additionally, my position is built on the belief that the pandemic is real. This letter explains why I, as a Christian who also values freedom, reluctantly support adopting a temporary mask mandate for the municipality. | First, I am extremely disheartened by the character this debate is exposing in our community. There is much brokenness in this city. A mask mandate cannot heal that. I believe that Anchorage needs the truth of the Gospel to transform lives through faith in Jesus Christ. However, that belief does not preclude me from believing that the local government should take action for the purpose of saving lives. | I believe in the sanctity of human life. I believe that the lives lost as both direct and indirect results of COVID are as tragic as lives ended before birth. As a Christian, the Bible instructs me to love my neighbor and myself. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, the expert in the law asks Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?". Applying this scripture to life today, I believe that answer is clear: My neighbor is the immunocompromised, the elderly, the obese, and the people working high-risk jobs. It is also those who oppose this ordinance. To love my neighbor is to help reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19. Furthermore, the Bible instructs Christian to honor the weak in our midst. Community-wide masking is one way to do this now. | Like those who oppose the ordinance, I am leery of any action that increases the power of the government at the expense of individual freedoms. However, I also take pride in living in a land with law and order. Should the government get rid of all speed limits and seat belt laws and allow drunk people to drive on the roads? Each of these are inconveniences to individual citizens. However, these laws exist because there is a greater benefit to society when there are measures in place to reduce the risk of serious injury and death from certain behaviors. Given the realities of COVID-19 in Alaska, requiring masks in indoor public places is similarly reasonable. Additionally, I can support this ordinance because it has a clear sunset clause. | To be clear, complying with such an ordinance is giving up a small amount of personal freedom. Yet any claims that mask mandates are a form of Christian persecution are incongruent with my beliefs. In Galatians, Paul writes, "For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." I do not believe that the local government requiring masks in indoor public gatherings can be considered "a yoke of slavery." I can believe that because the freedom I have in Christ transcends any terrestrial law. Paul adds context to his previous statement by writing "For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" | I identify with many tenets of libertarianism. This is one reason why I love living in Alaska. However, one common consequence of fundamental libertarianism is the idolization of individualism. I'm afraid many Christians have unknowingly allowed championing individual freedom to become more central to their life than the Gospel. A former pastor of mine frequently said, "When you take a good thing and make it a God thing, that's a bad thing." If I elevate my personal freedoms to such a high point that I am no longer following Jesus's teachings (not loving my neighbor, not caring for the weak, using freedom for self-interest, etc.), I am practicing idolatry. | Therefore, despite my concerns of encroaching government and recognizing that the root issues in our community are far greater than the government

completely can fix, requiring masks at indoor public places is not contradictory to my interpretations of scripture and is in the best interest of both public health and the economy at this time. | |Thank you for your service to our community during these increasingly difficult times. | |Grant Robinson|

Name: Stefan Zijlstra

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 1:15:48 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.I. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I would like to strongly urge the assembly to pass this ordinance. It is clear that the complete lack of leadership on the municipal and state level in the face of this current health crisis has led to our healthcare system being on the verge of collapse. This isn't a topic of 'individual liberty', since it not only affects the person whose liberty is 'infringed' upon, but the health and well-being of the entire community as a whole. Individual liberties can and must be curtailed whenever their unimpeded exercise leads to negative consequences for others. How can anyone accept that some people end up seriously ill or potentially dead, because certain individuals want to have the right to behave in irresponsible, selfish ways? || What would happen if we threw out all traffic laws and left it up to the individual how fast or slow they want to drive? Would we simply accept the negative consequences of someone racing through neighborhoods with 50mph-60mph as a question of 'personal liberty'? At what point would we bring back traffic laws to ensure a minimum level of safety of the community as a whole? || We have clear local, national and international evidence that masks work to slow down the spread of the virus, which in turn helps hospitals and healthcare systems to cope with this crisis, so they don't become overwhelmed. There is no 'ambivalence' about it, as mask-opponents like to claim. The numbers are clear: last year when Anchorage had a mask mandate under the previous administration and effectively curbed and slowed down the spread of the virus; this year we lack a mask mandate, which has led to an unrestrained increase in the number of infections with no end in sight. Our hospitals are in crisis mode with intensive care units running out of space, emergency rooms overflowing, elective surgeries being postponed, and many/most providers being on the verge of 'burn-out'. Every one of us is being affected by a vocal, self-centered, closed-minded minority, which stubbornly refuses to even take minimal measures, like wearing a mask, to protect themselves and, more importantly, the community they live in. || Therefore, I urge the assembly to take strong action and pass this ordinance and require masks within the municipality of Anchorage.

Name: Deana K

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 1:24:52 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91(S)

Testimony: Mask mandates are not going to address the underlying root causes of overcrowded hospitals who are rationing care. We will continue to have to revisit the topic of mask mandate until we as a community can address the issues affecting those who are disproportionately being hospitalized with severe COVID. Masks will not do anything but slow the spread until the next wave comes through. || The assembly needs to provide an ordinance or program effective immediately that monetizes and incentivizes individuals to be/get healthy. Vaccinations do not make a morbidly obese smoker healthy. Incentives should be monetary for weight loss, tobacco cessation, improvements in vitals such as blood pressure, HRs, or even A1C. Increase incentives for our youth anything that actually improves the health of our community. || The DHSS should/ could provide free online classes and park classes for exercises that bring the community together. There are numerous options and I would love to see the play everyday campaign involved for our children || Masking polarizes us. It demonizes politics and it does nothing to improve the immune function of anyone. || I therefore do not support this mandate and I hope what I shared can and will be used in the decision for voting on this tyrannical poorly considered mandate.

Name: Casey Duer

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 1:30:52 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: Good afternoon Anchorage Assembly Members, | I am for a mask mandate across Anchorage. For the health of my family we mask up so that my children stay safe, they do this without issues, if my 10 and 7 year old has no problem thinking of others and their own health then I see no reason grown adults shouldn't be required to buck up and wear a mask. The fact that peoples feeling will be hurt is nonsense, grown ups should know better. Give my family back our freedom to live in this community by wearing your masks and create a environment where this pandemic will no longer be a problem by enacting a mask mandate, as many other responsible cities and states have done. | Thank you for your time, | Casey Duer

Name: Elysia Spivey

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 1:39:04 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Agenda Item 14.L. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am an Anchorage RN. I take care of some of the most immunocompromised people in our state: those with cancer on chemotherapy, kidney transplant patients, and those on immunosuppressants for their autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis and Crohn's disease. I fully support the Anchorage Assembly's proposal for a mask mandate. Unlike Mayor Bronson's claim that this is ""inconclusive science"", there are actually many studies that support community masking. You can read the data and find those studies here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/masking-science-sars-cov2.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fmore%2Fmasking-science-sars-cov2.html#anchor_1619456988446 | This is not a big ask. The hospitals in our state are overcrowded and even with the staff that the state is bringing up to help, there are still not enough beds to care for everyone at the level of care they may need. People in Alaska's villages are waiting days and sometimes even weeks for transfer to a higher level of care in Anchorage hospitals and this is leading to poor outcomes and unnecessary deaths. Some people are having important cardiac procedures or cancer surgeries postponed, also leading to poor outcomes. We are failing the people of our community and this is one easy step to help slow down the current rapid community spread. | I recently lost a young patient to Covid that was fully vaccinated because their immunocompromised body was unable to create enough antibodies. This is not okay and it could have been prevented. This is not about politics or my freedom, this is about humanity. Assembly members, I am asking that you please vote to pass this ordinance. The people of Anchorage need our local government to step up to help slow the spread of covid in our community and this is the best way we can do that without shutting down businesses or requiring vaccines. Thank you. |

Name: Emily Weiser

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 1:44:33 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: Dear Assembly Members, | |I'm writing to express my strong support for a mask mandate for Anchorage as outlined in AO 2021-91. Due to the high case counts and lack of masking, I currently avoid visiting local businesses even though I normally prefer to shop locally. I also have several friends who have contracted covid-19 despite being fully vaccinated; they are recovering well, but no one needs the fatigue, stress, and lost work days imposed by the disease. Some of the damage to our economy, our neighbors, and our health would be mitigated by a mask mandate. (A vaccine mandate would be even more helpful!) | |Thank you for your work on this and other Muni matters. I condemn the hateful words and actions of the attendees who have flooded the Assembly meetings this week. Those of us who support community-minded work and leaders may be quieter and less visible than the opposition right now, but we are grateful for you. | |Sincerely, | |Emily Weiser (PhD; she/her/hers) | Emily.L.Weiser@gmail.com | 5555 Chilkoot Ct, Apt 3 | Anchorage, AK 99504

Name: Carolyn Gove

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 1:44:48 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: A02021-91 or Anchorage Mask Mandate

Testimony: I support the Assembly's masking ordinance. | Anchorage responded responsibly at the start of the pandemic by following science-based health guidelines for prevention and the outbreak was minimal. The outbreak continued to be contained as Anchorage community members took advantage of vaccinations early. | We are now moving backward due to lack of leadership and a misguided, politically motivated minority. | Thank you for your leadership in working to steer us back on course. Your dedication in light of the aggressive and uncivil behavior of those in opposition is greatly appreciated. | Sincerely, | Carolyn Gove | |

Name: Tara Lampert

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 1:59:51 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate for Anchorage

Testimony: I'm writing in my support of the proposed mask mandate for the municipality of Anchorage. | Alaska, and Anchorage in particular, is at the heart of the biggest rise in COVID-19 cases in the country, which is truly disappointing because we had such a fantastic start to the vaccine rollout in early 2021. Now, we are laughable, which is in direct connection to the lack of leadership in our municipality, which shifted once Mayor Bronson took office. | It is clear that we need to do something to help our community and our health care workers and the simplest thing to do is wear a mask to help stop the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant of COVID-19. | Masking works and we know this from experience. We also know from experience that the lack of masking has increased our cases, increased the number of deaths, and has caused a near collapse of our health care system, resulting in burnt out of our health care workers, requiring the need to import additional help from the Lower 48. | A mask mandate will help us re-establish our health care, protect those around us, and help stop the spread of the virus. If we do nothing, this virus will continue to spread and will have greater opportunity to mutate into another variant (which we know it will/has) that we might not be able to battle. | This pandemic will continue for years if we don't do something about it now. Masking is the smartest option we have.

Name: Ashley Wade

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 2:14:18 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am urging you to please enact a mask mandate. For the safety of those who cannot yet get a vaccine, please enact a mask mandate. Please don't give way to the theatrics of the anti-mask crowd. These same types of attitudes were on full display when seatbelt laws were enacted, yet these laws have saved countless lives. While a mask does not give you immunity to Covid-19, it definitely helps lower the rate of infection- this has been proven right here in Anchorage! Please let common sense prevail. | Ashley Wade

Name: Becky Kendall

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 2:22:48 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 13.A Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: Members of the Anchorage Assembly and participants both testifying and watching the proceedings, | |As the family of Mr. Paul Kendall, we would like to take a moment to address his outburst and vulgarity at last night's meeting. Though it is not our duty to apologize for his actions, that would be his responsibility, we feel that his representation of our family warrants us to speak up. The kind of hurtful and homophobic rhetoric that was his testimony does nothing to make our community better and does not reflect our views or values. If it takes cruelty and insults to express an opinion it isn't freedom, its bullying. To Mr. Constant, we are saddened that you were the target of his words and we applaud you for your grace despite such a personal attack and we thank you for your continued service to our community. To all the members of the assembly and those who are respectfully giving testimony, thank you for your dedication to the democratic process. Making decisions for the wellbeing of a whole community is never easy nor should be taken lightly. It is our hope that these proceedings can continue forward with a sense of purpose and mutual respect. | |Dave and Becky Kendall| District 6

Name: Michelle Martin

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 2:30:50 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: Please do not enact AO 2021-91. It is a gross overreach of legislative powers. I do not consent and I will not comply.

Name: Ella Ede

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 2:32:59 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: By Ella Ede, Anchorage Resident, District 4 - September 30, 2021 | |Madam Chairwoman, Assembly Members, and Mayor Bronson, | |Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on AO 2021-91. | |My name is Ella Ede. I was born in Anchorage 55 years ago and currently reside in District 4. As a lifelong Alaskan, I am a moderate, fiscally conservative, pro-resource development Alaskan. But politics has nothing to do with this issue. As others have stated before me, Alaska used to be a help thy neighbor, pay it forward place. The Alaska I grew up in was one where Alaskans took care of each other. I cannot comprehend what is going on here. What has happened to our community and sense of the greater good? | |Mayor Bronson - I am extremely disappointed in your lack of leadership during this pandemic crisis. Leaders lead by example - the science is overwhelmingly clear that the Covid vaccine and wearing masks are our best tools to help stem the current surge of Covid cases. Yet you refuse to get vaccinated or wear a mask or encourage others to do so. Sir, you are not a leader if you are not setting an example. Sitting back and saying, ""I don't know what else we can do"" is not leadership. | |On Tuesday, the Anchorage Action group put up 535 white flags outside the library to represent the 535 Alaskans who had died of Covid by that date. They also had signs supporting our health care workers. Apparently, those flags and signs were removed by the next day. Why? Does removing them erase the importance of those who have died? Why were they removed and by whom? Are we not honoring those who have died and the health care workers battling on the front lines to save lives? | |Today, we know the number of Alaskans dead from this pandemic is now 556, with 70 deaths just in September. That is more than 2 people per day dying of Covid this month alone. Does anyone here care? What are you doing to address this crisis? | |For everyone against wearing a mask to help curb the current surge of Covid cases in our community straining our health care system, what does it take for you to care about others or the impact on our hospitals and health care workers? | |Make no mistake, we've been down this road before. Whenever faced with some mandate imposed in the interest of the common good, some people act like they just woke up on the wrong side of the Berlin Wall. ""There's no freedom no more,"" whined one man in video that recently aired on ""The Daily Show With Trevor Noah."" The clip was from the 1980s, and the guy had just gotten a ticket for not wearing his seatbelt. | |It's an unfortunately common refrain. Can't smoke in a movie theater? Can't drive drunk or high? Can't crank your music to headache decibels at 2 in the morning? ""There's no freedom no more"" you yell. Some of you seem to think freedom means no one can be compelled to do, or refrain from doing, anything. But that's not freedom, it's anarchy. | |Usually, the rest of us don't agonize over the stupidity - we just ignore you. Often it has no direct impact on us. But this time - it does. | |The guy in ""The Daily Show"" clip was only demanding the right to skid across a highway on his face, after all. But now you claim the right to risk the health care system and our personal lives. | |So if you're angry, guess what? You're not the only ones. | |The difference is, your anger is selfish, and ours is not. Yours is about being coerced to do something you don't want to do. Like that's new. Like you're not already required to get vaccinated to start school or travel to other countries. | |For that matter, you're also required to mow your lawn, cover your hindparts and, yes, wear a seatbelt. So, you're mad at government and your job for doing what they've always done? News flash, the first vaccine was required in the US in the 1850s. Vaccines are not new. | |But the rest of us, we're mad at you. Because this thing could have been over by now, and you're the reason it isn't. No amount of internet or social media garbage ""science"" excuses your selfishness. | |So, back to masks. NONE of us LIKE wearing a mask, sure, it's annoying. So what?! All

the nonsense about mask causing ""health issues"" is absurd. || Not wearing a mask and not getting vaccinated does not make you ""free"" - it just makes you egocentric and ridiculous. Please - Grow up and do the right thing to help your community - our community - because the rest of us want our lives back. || I support the mask mandate because it is clear that many of you are too selfish to do the right thing on your own, and our businesses, schools, and especially our health care workers deserve our help and deserve to stay open. No one is talking about shut downs - we are simply requesting a minor inconvenience of wearing masks indoors until we are past the worst of this pandemic. If our military can do, we can do it. || In the words of former Republican Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, ""Don't be a Schmuck. Put on a Mask."" |||

Name: Lesya Okoniewski

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 2:37:42 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14L

Testimony: The proposed mask mandate is unconstitutional, antiamerican, and it has gone on long enough. Over 1.5yrs ago this discrimination was promoted under the guise of ""protecting the vulnerable."" The vulnerable don't have the right to force anyone to do anything with their own bodies. The healthy don't have the right to vote away the right of the vulnerable either. Slavery is not legal here. We do not belong to each other. I have been barred from the school our taxes pay for- not because I am contagious but because I cannot wear a mask. I see the looks I get in the store of people scared that I've got the ""cooties"" while employees and customers alike wear their tissues improperly, touch the contaminated surface repeatedly, and even sneeze. Nobody covers their coughs anymore because they've got magic tissues on their faces already. I've seen employees forced to wear nasty, VISIBLY filthy covers because those who believe in the mask are forcing the practice on all. I've been denied service by some businesses who fear the retaliation of their representative body. Nothing about these policies promote or preserve HEALTH or healthy behavior. The agenda simply attacks those who hold different beliefs and those with different needs are acceptable collateral damage to those grabbing for power. Stop using the line ""for the sake of those who can't."" I have seen the hatred with which you look at me when I can't and I don't believe your good intentions for a second. I came to this country to ESCAPE religious persecution and I will NOT support or comply with any policy that promotes it. If you believe in the vaccine, mask, or both- you have the God given right to live according to your faith. You do NOT EVER have the right to compel anyone else to join you. I will stand AGAINST you as you violate your oaths to defend the constitution which DENIES you power over our bodies and souls. This country was founded on coexisting RESPECTFULLY. I have never asked for nor needed your unlicensed medical advice. Stop playing doctor and get back to your actual jobs while you still have them. You are destroying our state with your egotistical nonsense. Thank you to Mayor Bronson for putting yourself at the front of this ordeal and Jamie Allard for representing those who are being misrepresented by their own leaders.

Name: Patricia M Olsen

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 3:38:03 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate 14.L. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91, an ordinance of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly regarding public health and safety measures for the COVID-19 pandemic, Assembly Members Zaletel and Petersen. 14.L.1. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91(S), an ordinance

Testimony: I respectfully submit that we as Alaskans stop this bickering and once again begin to act like neighbors. Let's protect each other, respect each other, and agree to disagree. Please follow the science, the real science, and pass this ordinance. Thank you.

Name: Stephanie Cornwell-George

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 3:44:39 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L

Testimony: I am writing in support of this item, while I agree with enforcement, I do not agree with private citizen enforcement. Masks are needed to protect our entire community as much as possible and start to remediate some of the impacts of Covid, especially economic. || One of the hardest things for me is dealing with people that harass others that wear masks. Just Tuesday I had to run into the gas station to pay cash, a man intentionally came towards me and yelled ""why the F are you wearing a mask? Does your face diaper make you feel safe you stupid sheep?"" This is the fourth time I've been harassed in recent weeks. He had a shirt on that spoke of freedom and rights, what about mine to do what is appropriate for me? What about my right to life in my own community where I pay taxes? || I'm not medically eligible for the vaccine unfortunately and my disabled, very high risk father lives with me. My youngest child isn't old enough for it yet. The men in my home would literally have no one to care for them if something happened to me and both my boys are adopted and have autism and several other needs. || I know my situation isn't like everyone else's but neither is that of others. I used to brag about our community and how they rally for and support each other. Now I feel like I live in an entirely different world. A mask is an inconvenience for some but life saving for others. I wear one all the time but the science and data show that others must be wearing them to limit the spread. | Alaska is already one of the worst in so many categories like incarceration and education. I was so proud of us all when we had appropriate protections in place and we're doing better than most every other state. That quickly and dramatically changed. | It is my hope that the assembly will approve this safety measure and approve a veto override as I anticipate will be needed. Please use actual science and data that is accurate and even peer reviewed. Also, please use sources that are the most current. Covid is a novel virus, we are learning every day. Data from before cannot be logically applied to today and a more aggressive variant.

Name: Gurunam Atwal

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 3:55:34 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ao-2021-91

Testimony: I disagree with this ordinance. I urge you to vote NO on this. I will not comply. I work in the transportation industry and have observed first hand as well as experienced the emotional and psychological toll that wearing masks puts on ourselves and our children. This is creating lasting damage that I fear we will see in our future generations. We must also consider the economic, emotional and psychological effects of this kind of ordinance. Alaska is supposed to be a beacon, a safe haven for those fleeing from the extreme liberal agendas being pushed through that are really pharmaceutical and corporate interests labeled as ""woke"" and liberal to appeal to the masses. We are not children. We do not need to be babied by our own government. If a vaccine works, if a mask works, why require everyone to get one and wear one? I would like you to think for a moment - what do you think are actually the odds of a seemingly healthy person being an asymptomatic carrier of this ""virus"". If that number is greater than their chances of getting cancer due to smoking or the building up of toxins in their body or of getting in a car crash then sure we can consider this. We have much larger problems than covid. Our country is being taken over by big pharma and the minds of our citizens poisoned with this rhetoric that their bodies are not their own, that some people due to their PERSONAL MEDICAL DECISIONS deserve to be second class citizens. THIS IS MEDICAL SEGREGATION. I WILL NOT COMPLY. I moved to Alaska from California to live in a place where I could feel free to choose how to live. I urge you to BE A LEADER IN THIS CRAZY STORM we now find ourselves in. Dig deep and do what is RIGHT in regards to the founding principles of this country. If you silence some voices, if you mandate masks in all public venues you will only serve to create more conflict within the anchorage community. When much of our country refuses to THINK FOR THEMSELVES and follows blindly the doctrine of the CDC who are IN BED WITH BIG PHARMA I want to see Alaska be an example of logic and reason and upholding our Declaration of Independence. We are sovereign we are free and if you mandate this you will only be activating those of us who are prepared to keep fighting until we die for that freedom. True patriotism is not dead. WE WILL NOT COMPLY!!!!

Name: Cindy Mans

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 4:13:47 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 2021-91

Testimony: First and foremost, thank you for your service during these divisive times. |I am imploring you to institute a mask mandate whenever the daily case rate is high or substantial. Not only will this policy help curb this current surge, it will automatically kick in with future surges. This policy would not be dependent on a timeline or specific political overtones. It may even incentivize Anchorage to work towards a common goal. |As a resident who is currently on a breast cancer journey, I can speak to how my care has been adversely impacted by the current COVID surge. My family can no longer participate in my care in-person anytime I enter a medical establishment due to visitor restrictions. My health is dependent on their participation. |Please make the difficult decision to implement restrictions when in a high or substantial daily rate. Just because this viewpoint isn't the loudest, many of us are willing to sacrifice for the good of all. |Thank you.

Name: Karen Rode

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 4:32:41 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am strongly in support of a mask mandate ordinance. We are in a public health emergency, with the worst infection rate in the nation. We know what works, as far as masks, vaccines and public mitigation efforts. I am a retired former RN. I know first hand what my friends still working in healthcare are going through, and it is horrendous. I am appalled at the ridiculous behavior of those who are opposed to a simple, common sense, science based public health measure. I believe they are in the minority, as evidenced by our vaccination rate. The majority are not willing to continue to tolerate this childish behavior. I personally would not choose to attend any of the meetings, because I do not want to risk being in a room with unmasked, screaming super spreaders. I also do not, and will not patronize any business that does not have a mask mandate in place. I am horrified at the use of the Jewish star as a symbol of mask resistance, and our mayor's refusal to disavow it. There is absolutely no equivalence between being asked to wear a mask, and being marched to a death camp. When I was an RN I often had to wear a mask for many hours of every shift. It did not harm me in any way. The anti mask people claim they want respect, but they are behaving like temper tantrum throwing toddlers, a group I know something about as a former pediatric nurse. I also was mandated to receive multiple vaccines, or provide proof of immunity, as a condition of employment. Mayor Bronson trying to blame vaccine mandates for the current staffing shortages is obviously false, and extremely offensive to those hard working health care workers, the majority of whom have already received the vaccine. I would not want to be under the care of any health care worker that was not vaccinated. If they do not believe in scientific evidence, they should not be in health care. I ask the assembly to please give more consideration to those of us in the majority, who want to see our case rates go down, and know what will work to get us there.

Name: Kathleen Schultz

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 4:51:39 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Covid mask wearing

Testimony: Since April Fl has 19,000 Covid deaths, Tx 16,000, California 6,000. Mandates work, |Governing is difficult with shouting down speakers and yellow stars very reminiscent of Nazi behavior. Never did I ever think Anchorage would sink so low. I support mask mandates, please do the right thing.

Name: Dana Bruden

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 5:05:31 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: My name is Dana Bruden and I have lived in anchorage since 1990. The science is there to support three actions to save lives in this pandemic | |Social distancing, masking and vaccinations. I want to support the anchorage assembly in implementing a city-wide indoor mask mandate and I want to thank you for your service to the city of anchorage residents

Name: Anne Herschleb

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 5:39:39 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Thank you to Assembly members Zalatel and Peterson for sponsoring the AO 2021-91. We need to take all scientifically proven measures to control this pandemic. I support AO 2021-91. I don't feel comfortable attending Assembly meetings, especially when I view the (un)civil discourse that is taking place, and, that I believe, is being encouraged by Mayor Bronson and Assemblymember Allard. The hearings look and sound horrific and hateful. I especially appreciate Chair LaFrance's attempt to run a civil meeting. | | I appreciate the work you all do, I am sorry it is as stressful as it is right now. Thank you all for your service. | | Anne Herschleb | | Midtown District - VOTING AGAINST THE WASTEFUL ZALATEL RECALL!

Name: Kacie Gartland

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 5:41:09 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I strongly support an indoor mask mandate for Anchorage. Masking is the easiest, least-invasive method of slowing the spread of COVID-19. With our city's recent increased case counts and increasing hospital needs, our community must show up for one another and do something to change the health trajectory of our city. Personally, I will be more apt to visit businesses and participate in community activities if masks are required. Thank you to the Assembly for prioritizing the health and safety of Anchorage and re-implementing a mask mandate through December.

Name: Stephen Stone

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 5:55:39 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Hello, || Thank you for considering this yet again. Obviously we would love to not be in this position, but I am grateful that there is enough concern to bring this up yet again. I am in favor of mask mandates by the government (city and/or state) because if left up to the general public, we can obviously see that people are not ""doing the right thing"" as the Delta variant continues to cause havoc among our state. Thank you for trying to protect the most vulnerable amongst us. Thank you for choosing to keep believing in the science/doctors/physicians/experts asking for help/mandates. I wish I felt safe enough to come to the chambers tonight and voice my opinions in person, but that is not the case for my physical well being. Thank you for this outlet to be heard, and part of the conversation. || ~Stephen

Name: Claire Ellis

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 6:06:51 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021 91 (S)

Testimony: I am opposed to this mandate. There is no solid evidence to prove that mandatory masking has worked in decreasing spread of viruses. This mandate says that the Delta Variant is the dominant circulating in Alaska and we have no test to differentiate between covid and its delta variant. We know from published data that tests are not 100% accurate and that any test can be made positive. Also, you do not take into account all the positive cases we've had and the antibodies that those individuals hold which will help their immune system (and research shows even more powerful than vaccine antibodies). |You were elected to represent this city and you are NOT doing that if you approve this mandate. You are going against your duty if you believe the majority wants this mandate. |Honor our free choice over our health, honor our freedoms as US citizens, honor our right to maintain businesses with no restrictions, honor the oath you took, and realize that the survival rate of this virus is all the data you need. If you're upset about hospitals, maybe realize they're firing people and that is on them for not being able to provide care.

Name: Amy Darrell

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 6:12:47 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: Dear Anchorage Assembly members, || I thank you for your service to our city. I am grateful for people like you who are giving their best effort to protect the best parts of our city and improve on the other parts. || I am now asking you to protect our freedoms as well. I am greatly concerned about the erosion of personal freedoms that our United States Constitution was written to preserve. I do not think there is ever a good reason to reduce our freedom, especially when ""temporary"" so often becomes permanent and sets a precedent for additional liberties lost. || I am further disturbed by the wording in this proposal that expects neighbors to turn their neighbors in for their conscientious objection. This will only work in a divisive manner between people who already have plenty of reasons to be divided from others. Instead we should be promoting unity. Not unity of one side's demand, but common unity, of the reasons we have to support and encourage one another to be our best.Â || Science has shown masks to be effective, and then science has also shown masks to be not nearly as effective as hoped. In fact, possibly only slightly helpful. In contrast, many people have been harmed psychologically by masks, and even physically when they have breathing limitations. || Many people, including myself, will comply if you ask respectfully, but you will only receive opposition if you demand. As a mother who has raised four teenagers, I can attest that this holds true for individuals of every age, as well as for large groups. || I am asking you to allow every person to decide how best to protect themselves and those around them. Instead of demanding masks, please encourage the consideration of one another. || On behalf of myself and my household consisting of my husband, and my four ""children"" ages 23, 22, 20, & 18), we urge you to please vote no on this mask mandate currently being considered.Â || Sincerely, || Amy Darrell || 3364 Seppala Drive || Anchorage, AK 99517 ||

Name: Jill Poeppelman

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 6:15:34 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: 'Now more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature... If the next centennial does not find us a great nation...it will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces.'" | -President James Garfield | |I wanted to start with this quote by President Garfield because I believe it is very relevant to our times. I want to point out the most important part is that ""we the people"" are responsible for not being more active in our community council meetings. I also do not know that I could or would want to say that you are ignorant, reckless and corrupt. I do not find value, nor do I want to tolerate blaming or acting disrespectfully to officials who chose to serve our community. I would like to point out that I see a very divided assembly team and I do not want to tolerate that because it hurts our community and our ability to move forward as the amazing community that I think will be some day in the near future. As leaders and representatives you are setting the tone for the citizens. If you demonstrate that can work together even if you may disagree, I think the citizens will follow suit. | |I also want to point out that the first amendment says that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. | |While maybe no new laws were created, it was encouraged that citizens should willfully give up those rights. The government still continues to encourage us to give up our first amendment rights through things like the ""directives."" We voluntarily gave them up the first time and we tolerated it. I do not think we want to voluntarily give them up. We enjoy having our freedom in this state and nation and it is part of the foundation of this Nation. | |I believe the proposed mask mandate AO2021-91 will infringe upon our first amendment rights again because you want to limit the number of people gathering and it will interfere with the people's ability to exercise their rights to exercise religion and it impacts many people's livelihoods. I do not want to tolerate that from my local and federal government. I'm opposed to AO2021-91. | |I am really encouraged to see the community being actively involved in the process. Thank you for all that you do! God Bless. | |Jill Poeppelman | District 1

Name: Victoria Busig

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 6:17:18 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am against mask mandates of any kind for Anchorage. I have lived in Anchorage for 47 years and can't believe how liberal our city as become. You are attempting to strip the citizens of Anchorage of their God given rights and you have no right to do that. You are doing this solely for the power not the science. You are wrong!!! Stop this insanity now! Voters will not be kind to you for this absurd power grab.

Name: Brittany Lauper

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 6:22:07 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Assembly Members, I do not support the submitted AO 2021-91 for mandatory face coverings. There has still been no long term or peer-reviewed study proving masks provide protection from a virus; contrarily, there is proof that they do not provide protection. OSHA, CDC and Webster's Dictionary have changed definitions, rules & recommendations to accommodate the lies that are being pushed. A medical device mandate should at the very least, have definite, long-term, scientific proof that it would provide protection if we are to restrict oxygen intake for more than a short period of time. If a human chooses to wear a face covering because they are afraid of getting sick, they have that right to do so, but you cannot force it on any human being - let alone small children that are nearly 100% immune from Covid-19 - as almost every human is, factually. It is a Human Rights violation to force any medical devices or interventions on a human body. Doing so would be a violation of your oath to uphold the Alaska Constitution and the United States Constitution. Any Assembly member who is unwilling or unable to uphold their oath must resign as they have betrayed their constituents. As to the "increase in cases" stated in Ms. Zaletel & Mr. Petersen's submitted document, how are these cases being determined? How has the "Delta variant" or any other variant for that matter been determined? It's cold & flu season. Where did the flu cases go? I understand that the CDC has stated the PCR test being used are recalled due to not being able to distinguish between Covid-19 and the common cold or influenza. The CDC has just recently made a statement admitting that you can test positive via the PCR test if you have the antibodies associated with the common cold. Continuing to use tests is absurd. This is dangerously deceptive to increase numbers in cases to justify oppressive rules. It all goes back to the test. If I received a false pregnancy test & lived my life for weeks or months as pregnant, only to find out I wasn't, that's NOT OKAY. Same with these tests. Freedom is everything. Freedom to choose medical & health treatment for myself is all that matters to me, as an individual. I honestly don't know how some of you get out of bed every day living in that kind of fear. It's not lost on me that this "pandemic" will never end because it's the road that leads to total control which is what socialism & communism grows from - what the majority of the Assembly is striving for. One thing is certain, you will not have control over me. None of the Assembly members control my decisions. If these ridiculous rules continue, Alaska will become even more of a socialist hell-hole than it's become. It's very apparent that most of you refuse to uphold your oath. I will continue to pray for Alaska having leaders that act like this. Brittany Lauper

Name: Nick S.

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 6:39:00 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Good Day Members of the Assembly, | My name is Nick S. and I live in district 4 in Anchorage. | I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed ordinance, AO 2021-91, aka the mask mandate. However, I do not support the clause related to citizen-enforcement. | We all know the case-per-population rates of COVID-19 that Alaska is currently experiencing, our overburdened hospitals having to ration care to all Alaskans, and recent evaluation bulletin from the state's own Department of Health and Human Services (Grage et al., 2021) showing that capacity orders and mask mandates appeared to successfully decrease the transmission of this virus in our community when enacted here in the fall of 2020. Masking is a tool available to us that we can utilize to help slow the spread of this disease. Masks are effective. | Again, I'd like to re-iterate my support for this ordinance. | Being elected officials, each of you have a duty of care to this community. Not just to your district, or your base, but to all of us who call Anchorage home. I am disappointed by the lack of action from higher up in regards to our most recent, and pressing surge of COVID-19. I applaud the members of the Assembly who recognized this lack of leadership and prioritized the public duty of care to put forth this proposed ordinance. Thank you. | I'd also like to express my displeasure and apologize on behalf of the entire community for the anti-semitic, gross use of symbolism + the perverse live interpretation of such by the head of the city's executive branch of government yesterday, and the offensive slur, all directed to attack members of the Assembly. This behaviour harms the entire community. All of you are just trying to do your jobs and engage the public process, for which I am grateful. Thank you for your time today, and thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment. |

Name: Eleanor Edgerly

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 6:42:12 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14 L ordinance number AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am an Anchorage oncology RN, working with immunocompromised individuals- specifically, those with cancer and receiving treatment. |Many of these people live in fear on a regular basis, due to their compromised immune systems. Now, many of them are unable to venture outside their home due to fear of coming in contact with COVID-19. |This risk could be mitigated. Even if you are an able-bodied and healthy individual, you can mitigate their risk by a simple, science supported gesture: wearing a mask in public. |I fully support Anchorage Assembly's mask mandate. There is evidence to support these actions, and we each have an opportunity to show up for one another and play our part by wearing a mask. Even if it's not for you, do it for those who may be at a greater risk of severe disease than you. |Please help relieve the stress on the hospital system by applying a mask mandate. It is a simple gesture, that can make a huge difference. | |Please, listen to your health care professionals. They are here to help. This is not a question about freedom, but simply humanity. | |We can show up for one another with a simple gesture, if not for you- then for your immunocompromised friends. |And to conclude- there is no place for comparisons to the Holocaust or other such horrors. This is a discussion about how to protect each other during a pandemic. Please remove any and all Holocaust imagery- there is no place at the table for that.

Name: Rudy Poglitsch

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 6:48:21 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Proposed Mask Mandate

Testimony: Do not do a mask mandate. That is draconian and ineffective.

Name: Denny Wells

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 7:02:54 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: To the Anchorage Assembly - || I would like to correct some false information provided by Mayor Bronson in his questioning of Bill Falsey last night. Specifically, Mayor Bronson said the following: |""I'm on the muni website and I'm looking at the case onset by date graph and I see that the 7 day moving average for both the state and the municipality have been decreasing significantly since September 13."" | This was false based on the Mayor's own data source. | According to the Muni's own Average Daily Cases by Onset Date chart on the Muni's first COVID page (<https://covid-response-moa-muniorg.hub.arcgis.com/>), the 7 day average on September 13 was 311.9 cases per day, and last night, with data through 9/28/2021, the 7 day average was 319 cases per day. You will note that those numbers are not only not ""decreasing significantly"", but in fact they are increasing. | The Muni's website does not track the state cases by onset date, but the state's website does. Since our alert levels are based on the case rate per 100,000, I will cite those numbers directly from the state's Average Daily Rate data. Statewide the 7 day average daily rate on September 13 was 85.9 cases per 100,000. Last night, with data through 9/28/2021, the 7 day average daily rate for the state was 166 cases per 100,000. Again, not ""decreasing significantly"", but in fact increasing. | If Mayor Bronson has to falsify data in order to suggest that the community honor system is enough to mitigate COVID cases and reduce crowding at our hospitals, it is difficult to ascribe credibility to his other arguments. | The science is clear. Community vaccination is how we are going to get past this pandemic and return the economy to something like normal. Until then, masking and distancing and reducing large public gatherings are our best strategies. | Masking is not difficult and not harmful. My household, including my wife and 3 school aged children, has been masking in public without incident for nearly 18 months. It is courteous. It is watching out for our neighbors. It would be nice if the rest of our community could exercise their personal rights responsibly and help to reduce the spread of COVID by masking without a mandate. But it has been clear there is a large portion of our community unwilling to act responsibly. | We have direct experience reducing case rates with mandates in Anchorage. In May and June 2020, the muni and state relaxed most of the mandates then in place. The 7-day case rate in Anchorage hovered at less than 2 cases per 100,000 for most of May and June, but in early July it began to rise. July 13, as the Anchorage case rate was approaching 10 per 100,000, the then-Mayor issued a request for people to ""Mask up. Stay Six Feet Apart. Wash Hands. Keep our social bubbles small."" to preserve hospital capacity. The polite request was not effective. By 7/22 the case rate was 14 per 100K, so the then-Mayor issued EO-14 renewing limits on gatherings and indoor capacities. By 7/31 the case rate rose to 28 per 100k, so the then-Mayor issued EO-15 further limiting groups and closing indoor dining. Within 2 weeks, the case rate was back down to 14 per 100K, and stayed below 28 per 100K mark until well into October. | We should learn from history. Polite requests are insufficient to address our COVID numbers. | Mayor Bronson is clearly unwilling to act to save the lives of Anchorage residents. I urge you as a co-equal branch of government, to take action. Please pass AO 2021-91. I especially appreciate that this ordinance has been drafted with clear community transmission targets to provide for the end (or possible reprise) of its limits so that they are not indefinite. Based on our experience in 2020, I would urge you to consider adding capacity limits to this ordinance as well. | I would relay my thoughts in person at public testimony this evening, but the number of people there unmasked seems too great a risk. | Thank you for your attention, | Denny Wells

Name: Jenny Taylor-Host

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 7:17:29 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I absolutely and unequivocally support the mask mandate. The previous testimony but qualified medical providers and CDC guidelines are adequate to have my support.

Name: Betty Bruckman

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 7:28:20 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-19

Testimony: Please vote YES. Covid-19 would be a death sentence to me and 2 other members of my family. |Voting yes on mask mandate will save lives. |Best regards, Betty Bruckman

Name: Justin Holvoet

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 7:29:12 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91(S)

Testimony: I've heard arguments from both sides. || One side chooses histrionics and threats. || The other side chooses calm presentation of facts. || I fully support a mask mandate, and I hope you do too. It won't hurt anything but some feelings. || Thank you, Justin

Name: Amy Locke

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 7:51:45 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: My name is Amy Locke, and I have lived in Anchorage my entire life and currently reside in District 6/South Anchorage. | |Through my years of schooling, I was exposed to many literary classics, yet for one reason or another, I hadn't read George Orwell's fictional work ""1984"" until this year. I am astounded to see how precipitously his imagined dystopia has become reality before our very eyes. | |The proposed ordinance is not based on clear scientific data. On what information are you basing your parameters that masking to this extent is necessary 1) at all, given that the surgical masks state on the side of their boxes that they do not prevent the transmission of Covid-19 or similar viruses and cloth masks are even far more permeable, 2) studies have shown that universal masking does not make a difference overall in Covid-19 transmission when comparing locations where it has been implemented and where it has not, 3) transmission of the virus outdoors is virtually non-existent. It can be said emphatically that the usefulness of masks is debatable at best. | |Why are so few healthcare providers, public health officials and public servants speaking to the fact that there are proven, safe, effective tools each of us can use to protect our bodies from Covid-19: fresh air, sunshine, regular exercise, Vitamins C, D and Zinc, choosing whole, healthy foods, cutting sugar, and losing excess weight. We've had 20 months to strengthen our health and natural immunity, yet the experts continue to overwhelmingly promote social restrictions, experimental vaccines and masking. | |Separating people from their family, friends and loved ones, creates a climate of fear, judgment, stigma and submission--this is breaking down the human spirit. Rates of anxiety, depression, addiction, overdose and suicide have skyrocketed. We know that children are at minute risk for complications from Covid-19, yet are now many times more likely to die of suicide; this is according to statistics from the CDC. Who is responsible for those lives lost? Our little ones are despairing, as are many adults who feel stuck in a similar place. The citizenry has looked for leadership but gotten manipulation instead, told to do the very things that are causing emotional, mental and physical harm by encouraging us to be segregated and sedentary. | |Another glaring omission proving the unscientific basis for this ordinance is that it does not once mention naturally acquired immunity, post-infection. The information is clear that the Covid-recovered have a much more robust defense than the vaccinated. Why do those supporting the ordinance ignore that crucial data? | |On top of all this, effective, therapeutic treatments for acute Covid infection are being censored and silenced instead of explored with true scientific curiosity. There are numerous legitimate, peer-reviewed studies on this all over the world. Certain politicians, healthcare providers and pharmacists are undermining the rights of patients to be treated with legally prescribed medications that have been safely in human bodies for decades. If those claiming their number one goal is saving human lives, why are we not hitting back against this pandemic on every front? Where is the scientific spirit of inquiry and honesty? This is what the people are requesting: open, transparent scientific research with an agenda of truth. I believe whole-heartedly that crisis we're seeing in the healthcare system would not exist if our nation, state, and city were finding every way possible to aim toward optimal public health, and members of our Assembly would have even less ground on which to stand to push this kind of tyrannical legislation. | |Most terrifying of all is the wording in Section 10.B. You, through this ordinance, in 10.B.1, are absolutely encouraging an environment of surveillance and reporting among our citizens of mask infractions to the authorities. Anyone with a basic knowledge of history can understand what societal climate this breeds and where it leads. (However, the language in this section changed drastically between Tuesday and

Wednesday, so I am unclear which version we're discussing at this point). | | As a freedom-loving American citizen, I struggle to understand the motivation behind such a controlling, divisive and oppressive direction desired by some members of this Assembly. Why you would want, (really at ALL), but especially without legitimate scientific basis, all the people of Anchorage covered with a mask, forcing compliance and grooming us with this ordinance to become comfortable with neighbor turning against neighbor? Orwell had something to say about it: ""The ideal set up by the Party was something huge, terrible...a nation of warriors and fanatics, marching forward in perfect unity, all thinking the same thoughts and shouting the same slogans, perpetually working, fighting, triumphing, persecuting-three hundred million people all with the same face."" | | In regard to this ordinance, I reject the wording, I reject the action, I reject the principle. I ask the members of the Assembly supporting it to reconsider. Please make the choice stand for Constitutional rights and the innate human dignity of each person; the only solution here is allowing individuals to make healthcare decisions for themselves, individual liberty and non-compliance with implementation of this Order. Thank you. |

Name: Antonia Sparrow

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 7:52:48 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: OA 2021-91

Testimony: Dear Anchorage Assembly Members, |First, thank you for your time, energy, civility and endurance for this process. Second, thank you for taking a stand, when it would have been easier to throw your hands up and blame others for the poor outcomes of this crisis. Third, it is clear that reinstituting masks and other mitigation measures will save help our healthcare system and save lives. We need look no further than how our city brought down Covid spread using the same measures before. ||Maybe it helps to go back to the polio epidemic of the early 20th century. Polio is primarily spread through a fecal oral pathway. Imagine if people insisted that they be allowed to share their fecal matter with people they contacted as their ""right""? It's disgusting and hard to imagine anyone agreeing to it. Well insisting on sharing your respiratory viruses with others is no different from an infection point of view. Your rights stop where they injure others. Not wearing masks clearly injures other. People are not being forced to wear masks. They can stay home and not do so.

Name: Elizabeth Nudelman

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 8:08:04 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: SUPPORT AO 2021 SAFETY MEASURES FOR COVID

Testimony: DEAR ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY, || THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF KEEPING ALASKANS SAFE AND KEEPING OUR ECONOMY OPEN DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC. || HAVING LIVED AND WORKED ACROSS ALASKA FOR NEARLY 40 YEARS I URGE THE ASSEMBLY TO VOTE YES ON IMPLEMENTING THE SAFETY MEASURES INCLUDED IN AO 2021. ALASKA AND ESPECIALLY ANCHORAGE IS BEING DECIMATED BY COVID AND WE MUST TAKE ACTION BEFORE THE TOWN IS DESTROYED AND HARD WORKING ALASKAN'S GO ELSEWHERE LEAVING BEHIND A BANKRUPT ECONOMY AND PEOPLE MOST NEEDING HELP STRANDED IN A WASTELAND. || CLEAR HEADS MUST PREVAIL. VOTE YES. || MASK UP TO SAVE ALASKANS AND ALASKA'S ECONOMY. ONLY BY MITIGATING THE PANDEMIC WILL WE MOVE ON. || ELIZABETH NUDELMAN

Name: Joel Nudelman

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 8:14:49 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: SUPPORT AO 2021 SAFETY MEASURES FOR COVID

Testimony: DEAR ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY, || I AM WRITING IN SUPPORT OF AO 2021 IMPLEMENTING SAFETY PROCEDURES FOR COVID. || PLEASE VOTE YES AND PROVIDE ALASKAN'S WITH A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK. || MASKING IS ONLY TEMPORARY IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER TO END THIS PANDEMIC. || JOEL NUDELMAN

Name: John Gregoire

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 8:55:51 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I am in full support of the mask mandate. I see it as a small sacrifice to support the health of our community. Do not be deterred - please make the decisions necessary to get Anchorage out of this difficult time.

Name: Kevin Worrell

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 9:06:15 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO-2021-91

Testimony: I am grateful for the opportunity to address the assembly today. I am writing in support of a mask mandate that will help to protect the most vulnerable members of our community. I am compelled to add my voice along side many other responsible|citizens in support of this mandate that will ease the burden on our healthcare workers. I must raise my voice against the shocking actions of a few, very troubled fellows in our community who would compare wearing a mask with the Holocaust. Please pass this mandate, protect our fellows and stem this surge that puts us all in harm's way.

Name: John Dunaway

Date/Time Submitted: 9/30/2021 9:40:33 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Covid

Testimony: Please take action on the current covid outbreak. Masks, mandates, whatever it takes.
Thanks for putting up with this!

Name: Andrew Brewer

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 1:21:09 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Testimony on AO 2021-91

Testimony: Mask Mandate ? | Agenda 21 is here, | And that is a world to fear ! | No, not COVID, but the Vax, | You will never get your life back ! | | The weakness of the world is money, | It has proven that it's not funny ! | And now we are enslaved, | Not from the money we have made, | But from the debt that lies in its wake ! | | And so they say, you'll be debt free, | And you will also own nothing ! | Your freedom will also be gone, | And you will live in poverty from now on ! | | Get the Shot and you will lose, | The wealthy only need some people as tools ! | The rest are useless eaters, | We cannot tolerate these people ! | | But they have power and control, | Nations are locked down and people fold ! | No, it was never about a Virus, | They are going to kill us without violence ! | | How do we re-act ? | Can we get our country back ? | Only if we get the Vax, | And that will be the end of that ! | | The answer lies in non-compliance, | But soon enough there will be violence ! | They are bringing back the Masks, | They are useful for the task, of controlling People. | | Who now behave like so many sheeple ! | But we are waking up, | Yes, defiance can be tough, | But submission is not for us ! | | AB |

Name: Steve Miller

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 1:21:29 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 2021-91

Testimony: No masks, no masks, no masks! How about you put a big chain link fence around Anchorage to keep the mosquitos out. Just as helpful as these filthy masks are!

Name: Jeff Olsen

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 4:05:21 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Proposed mask ordinance

Testimony: I support the proposed ordinance requiring use of masks in indoor public spaces and crowded outdoor public events. sponsored by assembly members Zaletel and Petersen. This much needed, but temporary, ordinance should be part of the arsenal for managing and minimizing the high rate of transmission of the COVID-19 virus in Anchorage (and Alaska).

Name: Frank Mitchell

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 5:31:35 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: A02021-19

Testimony: I strongly support requiring masks and vaccinations. We have to get this virus under control.

Name: Lauren Boldrick

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 6:23:47 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: Please vote in favor of the mask mandate. | | I am a educated, trained and licensed scientist. The loud ignorant minority who is against the mask mandate, is just that: ignorant. | | I have heard an incredible amount of ""well I did my own research."" | | What they actually mean is: I did my own analysis. | | They did not create the data that they are using to make these arguments. They did not create, run nor contribute to, a study that examined the topics they are using to bolster their arguments. | | So, these ignorant people then complete their ""scientific analysis"", but fall into repeated logical fallacy traps. Again, this happens because they are uneducated, untrained and inexperienced in scientific methodologies and practices. | | As a professional scientist, who is employed as a senior technical scientific analyst, I find the ignorance exhausting. Please ignore them. Please help the rest of us calm, sane (and quiet) people. | | Thank you.

Name: Suege Warton

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 7:13:34 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I want you to enact and enforce a mask mandate. I don't think any one persons right to refuse wearing a mask is more valuable than a persons life. To oppose such a simple measure is ignorant to the lives that are suffering because of Covid.

Name: Todd Knutson

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 7:24:41 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91, page 9

Testimony: Assembly members, | |As a father of a daughter in our public schools and a special educator I am writing to strongly advocate for AO 2021-91. Wearing a mask is a small price to pay to ensure the outrageous COVID-19 positive rate is reduced and our schools remain open. Over 700,000 Americans have perished to date. We must prevent the opportunity for additional variant strains from taking hold. | |I ask the Assembly to vote in favor of this ordinance. | |Todd Knutson | 11042 Kaskanak Drive | Eagle River, AK 99577

Name: Glenn Cravez

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 8:57:26 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: COVID-19

Testimony: While I understand and appreciate the need to give folks an opportunity to testify, at some point this has to stop and the Assembly needs to vote. Our hospitals are in crisis. Listen to the medical professionals. Pass the proposed temporary mask ordinance without further delay on Monday. Thank you.

Name: Jill Prewitt

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 9:11:10 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Dear Assembly Members - || I am writing to ask you to please protect the general welfare, health, and safety of all of us by instituting a mandate for face coverings. This is a simple action that individuals can do to protect all of us. Alaska's low vaccination rate has lead us to have the highest case rates of any other state. Our hospitals are in crisis mode, and people are now possibly facing not being able to receive medical care, even if it is not related to covid, because the hospitals are overrun with covid patients. People are having to travel out of state to get care, when they should be able to stay in their home state to get the treatment they need. || People do not have the right to put other citizens in danger. I should not be put in danger by a person not wearing a mask while going about my daily life in the grocery store, post office, etc. Wearing a mask is the smallest thing we can do to keep people safe, reduce our case numbers, unburden the hospitals, and keep businesses open. || Thank you for considering the welfare of all Alaskans.

Name: Tamiah Liebersbach

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 9:23:32 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Greetings, | | I am writing in strong support of the mask mandate proposed under AO 2021-91. A critical duty of a government in a representative democracy is to protect the majority of its citizens while also protecting individual freedoms. Our community is experiencing an unprecedented level of COVID-19 spread that is threatening our entire hospital system and putting any Anchorage citizen that leaves their home at substantial risk for contracting this awful virus. While Anchorage citizens could stop this spread of their own volition by getting vaccinated and wearing masks in public, many have chosen not to do so. At this point, the Assembly needs to step in to protect our community. There is strong science linking the usage of masks to reduced COVID-19 transmission. Requiring people to wear masks indoors in public settings is also the least intrusive method of preventing COVID-19 spread. It will not have the negative impacts that a shutdown would have and does not intrude on personal medical decisions like some feel a vaccination requirement would do. A mask mandate balances the duties of protecting the majority of citizens and individual freedoms. It is the best option to reduce COVID-19 transmission. Thank you for consideration of this topic. We need you to act to protect our community by passing this mask mandate! | | Thank you, | Tamiah Liebersbach

Name: Daniel Thompson

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 9:27:08 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91(S)

Testimony: Anchorage Assembly, I am a registered Alaska voter and resident of Chugiak, Alaska. I support fully all provisions of AO2021-91(S), an ordinance to require mask use in the Municipality of Anchorage. I am submitting this as written testimony due to the current lack of safe in-person conditions within assembly chambers. Due to the lack of mask wearing or social distancing during public testimony, residents like myself cannot attend in-person. I am concerned voices in support of this ordinance are not being equally heard due to this disparity. | I believe it is the central responsibility of our municipal government to protect the life and safety of myself and all residents. This ordinance is a common sense, empirically-based approach to tackle this public health crisis. Although it's passage may cause temporary inconveniences, these are far outweighed by the harm caused by inaction, including ongoing hospital care rationing, avoidable deaths, and the highest covid-19 infection rate in the country. | At some day in the future historians and maybe our grandchildren will look back on this unprecedented public health disaster, and ask ""what did you do to help or stop it?"" Did you sit by and do nothing out of fear of an angry and irrational mob? Or did you vote to help save lives? | I implore you to vote yes on this measure. | Sincerely, Daniel Thompson | Chugiak, Alaska

Name: Alexander Huff

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 9:42:14 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14. L

Testimony: I am very much for mask mandates in Anchorage. It is an easy way to help keep people safe and what I am witnessing is that people even though businesses are asking them to wear them they are not because its not mandated at a higher level. Thank you for your time.

Name: Lacey Hemming

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 10:59:03 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Hello, | Thank you for reading my testimony. Thank you to Forrest Dunbar my assembly person for representing our East Anchorage neighborhood. Also want to thank assembly persons Lafrance and Constant for attempting to keep decorum and peace in the assembly chambers. | | I'm writing FOR AO 2021-91. I'm in agreement that mandating covid mitigation is not the answer and is a reactionary way of handling a worldwide pandemic. But our friends, neighbors, and community don't seem to want to help each other and this is especially true of our leaders in Anchorage. So I feel that our community needs to be forced to do something they may find ""uncomfortable"". My young children find their car seats uncomfortable but I still buckle them in and tighten the strap. Chances of them being in a car accident are just as low as possibly dying from Covid. We still wear masks and social distance TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE, TO HELP THE HOSPITALS, TO HELP OUR ELDERLY, TO HELP PEOPLE WHO NEED MEDICAL ATTENTION. | | I'm deeply saddened by our Mayor and his denial of scientifically proven ways to slow the spread of covid-19 and ultimately (with vaccines) diminishing cases to minimal levels. His combative words towards health care providers and doctors is by far the most disappointing. My partner is a nurse at Alaska Native Medical Center, he expresses the same concern. Imagine coming home from working in a hospital for 12 hours and you have the leader of your community dispelling/spreading inaccurate rumors about the status of medical staff and hospitals. | | I'm a centralist and I don't belong to the left or right. I run my own business and I never liked government over stepping into my personal life. But when it comes to people's well being and safety they HAVE to step it is their duty to keep their community they serve safe. | | I would ask the mayor and Eagle River assembly person Allard to show support for medical providers instead of brushing them off as fear mongers. | | Thank you for your time | |

Name: Paul Hemming

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 11:07:10 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Hello, | Thank you for hearing my testimony. I'm currently a RN at Alaska Native Medical Center. I'm writing in support of AO 2021-91. | | I find our leadership in the community especially our Mayor and assembly person Allard WEAK. | How dare you say masking is uncomfortable or stops people from breathing or denies your right to breathe. You know what denies your right to breathe when you are in the hospital and COVID-19 is attacking your lungs and I as your nurse have to take care of your bodily fluids because you have NO CONTROL OF YOUR BODY anymore. | | You want to have control of your body go for it and deny the science until you can't anymore your DEAD. | | NURSES are leaving because of the lack of support by you MAYOR and ALLARD. I have multiple times spoken to the Director of nursing asking if nurses are leaving because of the vaccine mandate and she dispelled all rumors. I would ask you to get real accounts from the managers of all the hospitals before you spread RUMORS. We have always had a nursing shortage ever since I moved here 10 years ago it is ongoing problem that isn't related to a vaccine mandate. Every single nurse I work with (which is over the amount you had at your private anti-vax rally) has had NO problem with the vaccine. It has actually provided us with relief that we can SAFELY do our job. | | On the topic of businesses, please provide real data on how Covid-19 is effected businesses, how many closed in the last year compared to other years. Anchorage has a STAFFING SHORTAGE obviously there are plenty of jobs for everyone. | | I need facts from our leadership I don't see any just rumors and personal opinions. | | Thank you for your time. |

Name: Patrick Whitesell

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 11:20:57 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: First, I would like to thank the Assembly for putting up with crowds of unruly, uncooperative and (probably) unvaccinated individuals throwing tantrums about 'freedom!' while ignoring their responsibilities, much as one would expect from a 4-year-old. | |Second, I would like to state my CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR the proposed mask mandate. Given how many uncooperative members of our society are keeping us from safely reaching 'herd immunity', we need to look at what worked for Alaska, and Anchorage, during 2020 and the early half of 2021. And that was masks, social distancing, and limited occupancy. | |Many thanks, |Pat Whitesell

Name: Renee Murphy Whitesell

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 11:48:45 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14. L Ordinance No. 2021-91

Testimony: I fully support the Mask Ordinance as written. Anchorage is currently in a public health crisis, and masking, social distancing, and vaccination are three simple measures that can, and have proven to, assist to reduce COVID-19 transmission and bring the associated health impacts under control. Wearing a mask is a simple measure that protects us and others. We have plenty of data to support the benefits of mask wearing. | | I want our City to get back to a more normal operating manner, where we can safely eat out, shop, and socialize. While some are screaming and yelling they are being controlled, many more of us are simply keeping away from unsafe situations and we are watching our businesses, community, economy, schools, and social structure suffer. Simple measures such as masking, vaccinating, and social distancing will help quell the rampant spread of the virus so we can effectively look to the future. We all need to do our part and wearing a mask is easy to do. | | Thank you to Assembly Representatives Zaletel and Davidson for introducing this measure, to all Assembly members and putting up with the poor behavior and abuse by a vocal minority of residents that do not represent many of our views. I support a Mask Ordinance, and any actions to help us get this current public health crisis under control so we can build a stronger Anchorage for the future.

Name: Jennifer Privoznik

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 4:40:44 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate AO #2021-91

Testimony: I am a born and raised Alaskan, a nurse, and a mom for a high-risk child. For the last year and half, on the advice of our son's pediatrician and his specialists, our family has stayed home, worked remotely, turned to homeschooling, avoided church/large gatherings, limited in-person contact with most family and friends and worn masks in just about all circumstances to protect our child. || My only option for protecting my kids right now is to stay home...and we have for going on 20 months. My children aren't eligible for a vaccine yet, and since masks aren't required around town, we can't safely go out. Being fully vaccinated for young kids is still several months off. Enacting a mask mandate until everyone has a chance to become vaccinated is a kind, responsible and community minded action. But more, it tells my kids that people care...about THEM! When my 7 year old asked me why people won't wear a mask to protect him from getting sick and having to be hospitalized again, my heart sank because I didn't have an answer. I don't know why wearing a mask has become about ""my rights and freedoms"" and not just about protecting, caring and loving others. || The hardest thing I have had to do as a parent is to keep my kids home from everything and everyone they know and love. My kids are young. They are meant to be in community; to play and learn with their peers; go to school, kick soccer balls with friends, and go to birthday parties! I know this is the hand we've been dealt with our son's health, and we've embraced it, but we aren't the only ones... there are people we know who are on chemo, awaiting a transplant, and have other high-risk conditions that require them to also stay home while covid runs rampant in our town. These people all matter to our community! || I love our country's belief in freedom. I believe it is our right to choose what's best for our families. I believe in limited government. At a certain point though, when someone else's freedom takes away my children's freedom, there's something wrong with that. I wish that a mandate wasn't required. I wish that people would see my child and be willing to wear a mask to protect him, even if they didn't know him, but just simply out of the kindness of their heart. Sadly, that's not the world we live in today. || My kids are begging you, our Anchorage Assembly, to help them get back to being normal kids. Please enact a mask mandate, at least until kids can be vaccinated or until the case counts greatly diminish. |

Name: Laurie Wolf

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 5:01:07 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2020-43

Testimony: Thank you for the opportunity to say that I fully support all safety measures necessary to protect our community during the Covid pandemic including a mask requirement for all indoor spaces and outdoor gatherings. While you are mostly seeing the worst of our community on display sharing hateful messages while spreading fear and falsehoods, please know that the loud few are far outnumbered by the people of this community who believe in science and who care about the health and safety of Alaskans. I urge you to stand together to say that the truth matters. |As a person of Jewish faith I am without enough words to express my deep sadness for my family and fellow Jews, to express my anger at the ignorance shown by too many in your chambers as they fail to understand history, and to express my deep fear that not only lives in my DNA but in the headlines of our paper. I can not imagine having to sit and listen to so much hate and for that I am heartbroken for you and our community. I deeply hope decorum can be restored and that disagreements can be civil and productive. |I urge you to stand clearly on the side of health, safety, and civility.

Name: Robin Wittrock

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 6:36:23 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO--2021-91 - proposed masking ordinance

Testimony: First, I would like to thank the Assembly members for their hard work and dedication to our community. I have been a resident of Anchorage since 1997, my husband has been here much longer than that. We are raising 3 children here, who have attended the ASD since their kindergarten years. Your time and efforts to make our community a great one in which to live are very much appreciated. || Second, I would like to state that I support a mask mandate in our municipality. Based on information I've received from numerous sources I believe to be credible (mainly epidemiologists, doctors, and other scientists), I believe that masking reduces community transmission and we desperately need reduction in community transmission right now. || I wish for reduction in community transmission for multiple reasons, perhaps foremost, for the sake of our medical community. My heart aches for those who have worked so hard to care for our sick, in spite of prejudice against them and the medical advice they offer. If only to relieve the stress on them, there should be a mask mandate. My heart also aches for those who can't get medical care because there are no beds for them. As we all know, this needn't be happening. || I also want a mask mandate to protect my children. I know of people in our community who have chosen not to mask, who have gotten the virus as a result, and who have exposed our (masked) children to the virus. I am very concerned about longterm health consequences for my children should they get Covid. (Indeed, all of our community should be concerned about this because who knows what demands will be made on our medical system in the future, as people find they have suffered lung damage as a result of Covid). || I want a mask mandate because I am concerned about my health and the health of my husband; we are both in the 60 and older category, so the virus is a real immediate concern for us. || I want a mask mandate because I want our children to be able to stay in their school and in sports. || I want a mask mandate because I want to be able to attend my children's school events. Right now, I can't watch my Senior in his swim meets - I will never get this again. I fully support the ASD decision not to allow spectators, to help stop community spread of the virus, BUT IF ONLY WE ALL HAD BEEN WEARING MASKS ALL ALONG, I would be able to attend my child's meets. At this rate, I expect we will miss a second high school graduation in our family. || I want a mask mandate because I want my daughter to be able to go the movies with her friends without fear of exposure. I want my son to be able to go to parties. Right now, mostly out of a sense of duty to our community, we are not doing these types of inside things. || I understand non-maskers see this as a civil liberties issue, but I see it as a community health issue and a moral issue. The simple act of masking will protect the health of those we love and our neighbors we don't know, and it will allow us, sooner than later, to return to the normal life of going to swim meets and choir concerts, going to the PAC, going out to eat, etc. || Thank you for your time.

Name: Elizabeth Pullekines

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 6:58:00 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L

Testimony: I write in support of mandating masks to help reduce the spread of Covid-19. I recently moved to Anchorage over the summer. I previously worked with a state health department. They analyzed spread of Covid in communities that mandate masks vs those that did not. They found that communities with mask mandates had a slower spread of infection. Given that our Covid cases are increasing and our hospitals are rationing care, we need to utilize every tool we have to reduce the spread of Covid. ||It's disappointing seeing the lack of preventative measures, like voluntary mask wearing, out in the community. Covid isn't over and we need to care about each other, our healthcare staff, and the other Alaskans who need to utilize our hospitals. Please mandate masks at least until transmission of Covid is significantly lower and our hospitals are no longer overwhelmed.

Name: Julian Bertmaring

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 7:42:33 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14 L - AO2021-91

Testimony: Honored assembly members, | | I am writing to you with great concern for the community of Anchorage, based on the recent developments at the assembly meetings. | | I did not want to have to write to you as I thought that the procedures at an established institution like a municipal assembly would be enough to enforce decency and respect. | | However, the recent action and non-action by assembly members and the executive branch have changed my mind and I feel the need to speak up. | | There are several points I want to address and a public testimony in person would not be enough time to bring them all up (unless someone asks me several questions). | | My first concern is regarding the current scheduling of these meetings. Not only is this current item on the agenda, that is being testified to, an item that was brought up as addressing a potential public health emergency. Would that reasoning not warrant a dropping of anything to get to a discussion and processing of this agenda item? I understand that there are different opinions about this and even without talking about what side may be right or wrong, it should be in the combined interest of the body to get this resolved as quickly as possible. | | Additionally this item is holding up any progress on any further items which is also something that should be considered and why every effort should be made to get through testimony of this item and on with the remaining business. | | My second concern is regarding the behaviour during these meetings and specifically on this current item. I understand that this is a topic that has greatly divided opinions and any voice that wants to be heard should definitely be heard. However, what seems to delay this process and also creates a toxic environment that may prevent people from wanting to voice their opinions, is the behavior of some people in the public audience at these meetings. Even if there has been the occasional expulsion from these meetings, it seems that there are still too many interruptions that are not being handled appropriately and are causing delay. There should be a combined interest of the body to not have this happening, as again this is delaying this item. It is also delaying other items that are in public interest even for people who may have no interest in this item passing or being voted on. | | Another concern is about the silent acceptance of hate symbols in these chambers. As a born and raised German, I have to speak out against seeing the yellow star of David, that was used by my ancestors as a symbol of hate and division as well as other atrocities, in any context anywhere. There is no argument that can make this symbol anything else but a symbol of hate and division and the use and display of this symbol is an insult to millions of people who died during the darkest period in history as well as their ancestors. I'm disappointed that not more members of the body spoke out against this when it was needed and I hope that after this item is voted upon, that we see a resolution to condemn this display and behaviour of some individuals. | | As for this actual item that is currently on the table, I believe that it is much needed, but I fear that through the current delay it may come too late for some of our community members. | | I could go into some of the pitfalls that I see in some of the assumptions in some people's testimony, however I believe you are all aware of where to find scientific articles and have done your own research or will do it. | | I rather want to encourage you to think about the duty you have to care and make decisions for your community members. I believe that the price of wearing a mask in some places (as it will not make it mandatory for every setting) is outweighed by the benefit it will have for community members who cannot protect themselves. The examples on how this works have been shown in various countries in the world including our allies in Europe. | | Is it not the duty of patriots to sacrifice a little at times of need to help the helpless in our community? If that is the case, then how would we be able to call ourselves patriots when we deny this simple gesture that we could

do to help our neighbors? | How is it patriotic to not support our troops by creating an environment that they can be part of? Currently they are being advised to avoid indoor facilities that do not require COVID mitigation controls and requiring masks would satisfy this mitigation requirement. | Then there is also the question why the executive branch would speak about a shortage of funds when the power of the purse belongs to the legislative branch. A public function like this should be held within reasonable means. If the issue is a shortage of funds then that is what taxpayers are paying for as this is within reasonable means that the public can expect. | As you are all aware, there is and has to be a balance and oversight of power, however if one branch of government can cause a delay in the function of the other branch, then how is this acceptable and fits into the concept of the balance? This is not to say that there is any specific intention on anyone's part, but this is something that should be looked into as we need the checks and balances to be equal on all sides. Just as your body has the power to pass ordinances and the executive has the power to veto. | Additionally the public would have the right to repeal any ordinances they feel are ill fit. | I just hope that you are all staying safe during these days and also take a well deserved weekend, even if this weekend could have spent to get this behind everybody and get a longer break. | Thank you for everything you are doing for the community! | Julian Bertmaring | 16 year Anchorage Resident | District 6

Name: Mark Chase

Date/Time Submitted: 10/1/2021 10:34:55 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Contrary to the information being pushed by Anchorage Mayor Bronson, masking is a simple, effective tool for prevent the spread of COVID 19. Check out the following article from WEB-MD. | | Large Study Confirms Masks Work to Limit COVID-19 Spread | | Sept. 7, 2021 -- A large, real-world test of face masks in Bangladesh shows that masks reduce community spread of COVID-19. It also shows that surgical masks are more effective than cloth face coverings. | | The study demonstrates the power of careful investigation and offers a host of lessons about mask wearing that will be important worldwide. One key finding of the study, for example, is that wearing a mask doesn't lead people to abandon social distancing, something public health officials had feared might happen if masks gave people a false sense of security. | | ""What we really were able to achieve is to demonstrate that masks are effective against COVID-19, even under a rigorous and systematic evaluation that was done in the throes of the pandemic,"" said Ashley Styczynski, MD, who was an infectious disease fellow at Stanford University when she collaborated on the study with other colleagues at Stanford, Yale, and Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), a large research and policy nonprofit organization that currently works in 22 countries. | | ""And so, I think people who have been holding out on wearing masks because [they] felt like there wasn't enough evidence for it, we're hoping this will really help bridge that gap for them,"" she said. | | Masks work. A new study of more than 340,000 adults across Bangladesh found that the more people wore masks, the less spread of Covid there was. | | - Dr. Tom Frieden (@DrTomFrieden) September 6, 2021 | | It included more than 600 unions - or local governmental districts in Bangladesh - and roughly 340,000 people. | | Half of the districts were given cloth or surgical face masks along with continual reminders to wear them properly; the other half were tracked with no intervention. Blood tests of people who developed symptoms during the study verified their infections. | | Compared to villages that didn't mask, those where masks of any type were worn had about 9% fewer symptomatic cases of COVID-19. The finding was statistically significant and was unlikely to have occurred by chance alone. | | ""Somebody could read this study and say, 'OK, you reduced COVID-19 by 9%. Big deal.' And what I would respond to that would be that if anything, we think that that is a substantial underestimate,"" Styczynski said. | | One reason they think they underestimated the effectiveness of masks is that they only tested people who were having symptoms, so people who had only very mild or asymptomatic infections were missed. | | Another reason is that among people who had symptoms, only one third agreed to undergo a blood test. The effect may have been bigger had participation been universal. | | Local transmission may have played a role, too. Rates of COVID-19 in Bangladesh were relatively low during the study. Most infections were caused by the B.1.1.7, or Alpha, variant. | | Since then, Delta has taken over. Delta is thought to be more transmissible, and some studies have suggested that people infected with Delta shed more viral particles. Masks may be more effective when more virus is circulating. | | The investigators also found important differences by age and by the type of mask. Villages where surgical masks were worn had 11% fewer COVID-19 cases than villages in where masks were not worn. In villages where cloth masks were worn, on the other hand, infections were reduced by only 5%. | | The cloth masks were substantial. Each had three layers • two layers of fabric with an outer layer of polypropylene. On testing, the cloth masks filtered only about 37% of virus particles, compared to 95% for the three-layer surgical masks, which were also made of polypropylene. | | Masks were most effective for older individuals. People 50 to 60 years who wore surgical masks were 23% less likely to test positive for COVID compared to their peers who didn't wear masks. For people older

than 60, the reduction in risk was greater - 35%. | | Rigorous Research | The study took place over a period of 8 weeks in each district. The interventions were rolled out in waves, with the first starting in November 2020 and the last in January 2021. | | Investigators gave each household free cloth or surgical face masks and showed families a video about proper mask wearing with promotional messages from the prime minister, a head imam, and a national cricket star. They also handed out free masks. | | Previous studies have shown that people aren't always truthful about wearing masks in public. In Kenya, for example, 88% of people answering a phone survey said they wore masks regularly, but researchers determined that only 10% of them actually did so. | | Can we stop with takes that undermine the importance of masks? | | Masks are simple, cheap, and useful to limit COVID spread. It is normal for people to wear masks during a pandemic. | | Stop conceding one core tool, hoping folks will take up the others. We need them all. PERIOD. <https://t.co/LhFAt1T5NE> | | - Rhea Boyd MD, MPH (@RheaBoydMD) September 5, 2021 | Investigators in the Bangladesh study didn't just ask people if they'd worn masks, they stationed themselves in public markets, mosques, tea stalls, and on roads that were the main entrances to the villages and took notes. | | They also tested various ways to educate people and to remind them to wear masks. They found that four factors were effective at promoting masks, and they gave them an acronym â€• NORM. | | N, for no-cost masks; | O, for offering information through the video and local leaders; | R, for regular reminders to people by investigators who stand in public markets and offer masks or encourage anyone who wasn't wearing one or wearing it incorrectly; | M, for modeling, in which local leaders such as imams, wear masks and remind their followers to wear them. | | These four measures tripled the wearing of masks in the intervention communities, from a baseline level of 13% to 42%. People continued to wear their masks properly for about 2 weeks after the study ended, indicating that they'd gotten used to wearing them. | | Styczynski said that nothing else â€• neither text message reminders, nor signs posted in public places, nor local incentives â€• moved the needle on mask wearing. | | Saved Lives and Money | The study found that the strategy was cost-effective, too. Giving masks to a large population and getting people to use them costs about \$10,000 per life saved from COVID, on par with the cost of deploying mosquito nets to save people from malaria, Styczynski said. | | ""I think that this what we've been able to show is that this is a really important tool to be used globally, especially as countries have delays in getting access to vaccines and rolling them out,"" she said. | | Styczynski said masks will continue to be important even in countries such as the United States, where vaccines aren't stopping transmission 100% and there are still large portions of the population who are unvaccinated, such as children. | | ""If we want to reduce COVID-19 here, it's really important that we consider the ongoing utility of masks, in addition to vaccines, and not really thinking of them as one or the other,"" she said. | | <https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20210907/masks-limit-covid-spread-study> | | Medscape Medical News | Â© 2021 WebMD, LLC. All rights reserved.

Name: Rebecca J Voris

Date/Time Submitted: 10/2/2021 8:56:24 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: AO 2021-91 | Please support mask mandate for Anchorage

Name: Jeanette Alas

Date/Time Submitted: 10/2/2021 9:47:11 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 2021-91

Testimony: Hello, | | I am providing written testimony in support of 2021-91. I strongly encourage mask mandates. This is a public health emergency and not an individual right because someone else's personal choice to not wear a mask can affect my health and public health as a whole. | | It must be emotionally taxing to listen in person to some of the uncivil and uncontrolled outbursts that have been occurring at the public hearings, and I appreciate the efforts you are taking to listen. I am not testifying in person because I do not consider it a safe environment. | | Anti-masker use of the Star of David symbol is abhorrent and yet another low in our society. I vehemently oppose its use as symbol for anti-maskers. The homophobic slur towards Assembly Member Constant and public jesting in support of it is not welcome at public hearings (or anywhere) and I'm sorry that happened. | | Thank you for taking my comments into consideration, | Jeanette

Name: Anne Hillman

Date/Time Submitted: 10/2/2021 9:47:11 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: Dear Assembly Members, || I strongly support 2021-91, which requires people to wear masks in public spaces. Thank you for being will to endure the emotional trauma of this debate in order to keep our community healthy. || Sincerely, | Anne Hillman

Name: Elaine Rasher

Date/Time Submitted: 10/2/2021 4:12:20 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-90

Testimony: As a lifelong resident of Anchorage,, I am writing in opposition of the proposed mandate for municipal properties/employees. || If there is no mandate for the majority of the city, the municipal properties and employees should not be subjected to restrictions either. That is a violation o their rights as citizens of the US and Alaska,, divisive and discriminatory. Municipal property belongs to We The People and therefore needs to be fully open and available to the citizenry. || |

Name: Elaine Rasher

Date/Time Submitted: 10/2/2021 4:18:29 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-92

Testimony: As a lifelong resident of Anchorage, I am opposed to this ordinance as it is in violation of the separation of powers. You should, instead, spend your time doing the will of the people of Anchorage, particularly the ones who show up and voice their opinions, instead of playing games with the Mayor because you don't like him or his choice of administrators. The Assembly is not a tool for you to ram through your personal agendas.

Name: Leigh Anne Bonney

Date/Time Submitted: 10/3/2021 9:26:10 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Dear Assembly Members: | | I am writing to urge you to pass AO no. 2021-91. I am speaking as a teacher and as someone whose grandmother died of COVID. I have spent this fall in a classroom of middle school and high school students who have dutifully worn masks both for their own safety and for that of their classmates. This commitment to the safety of their community has allowed me to teach relatively normally this fall. Students are thankful for the opportunity to be back in the classroom, with their friends and peers. However, the current state of the health crisis puts in person teaching at risk and a mask mandate in public and communal spaces would help ensure that I can continue to teach within my building and not be forced back on zoom. | | The behavior of some people surrounding masks has made me sad and made me question the ideals of America individualism. The argument that it is their body and rights does not hold up. We have public decency laws that mandate we wear clothes and seatbelt laws to protect ourselves and others. Wearing a mask does not force people to alter their body, it just asks them to work to protect their community. The lack of empathy and care for their fellow humans that these anti-maskers show is incredulous to me. The threats some of them have made towards you and our medical professionals makes me angry and disappointed. After reading about the medical decisions that our doctors are having to make during this health care crisis, it is hard to see how we can not mandate masks in order to start to slow down this crisis. | | I recognize that at the Assembly meetings there is a loud voice from the anti-maskers, but please recognize that most of us do care about our community and are happy to wear masks in order to protect our community. Please don't let the loudest voices sway you from doing what is right and please pass this ordinance. | | Thank you for your time, | Leigh Anne Bonney

Name: Heidi Johnson

Date/Time Submitted: 10/3/2021 10:29:18 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: My name is Heidi Johnson, and I reside in district three. I work for a local community bank. I have a BA in writing and religion & philosophy, and an MA in communication. | | I have been watching the public testimony regarding the mask mandate since day one. I am shocked (although not surprised) at the illogical, disrespectful, highly theatrical ""anti-mask mandate"" testimony I have witnessed. | | The fact is, we are in a state of emergency in this municipality. Our Covid numbers (per capita) are the highest in the nation. Profound and drastic action needs to happen NOW. I am an individual who lives with multiple medical conditions that leave me immunocompromised. It is dangerous for me to live in Anchorage right now, because so many people go about their lives without masks during a time when the Delta variant is wreaking havoc and medical facilities are hanging on by a thread. | | We all have to make sacrifices during this unprecedented time. We need to do whatever we can, however we can, to protect ourselves and our neighbors. Nobody WANTS a mask mandate. Nobody WANTS to have to wear a mask going to the grocery store, restaurant, to work. But WANT and NEED are two different things, and should not be confused with one another. | | We NEED a mask mandate. | I WANT the Assembly to vote for one. | I WANT the mask mandate to pass, because I NEED to live in a safe community that statistically mitigates my chances of catching Covid-19. | | I thank the Assembly for their time. | Heidi Johnson

Name: Jennifer Ivers

Date/Time Submitted: 10/3/2021 10:55:52 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Please impose a mask mandate. People are dying. We had mask mandates last year, and they helped us get back to normal life. There is no excuse to let people die completely preventable deaths. It is your responsibility to help our community through this crisis. There is no constitutional argument against it, and it will save lives.

Name: Aimee Jordt

Date/Time Submitted: 10/3/2021 2:30:47 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am a RN that works and lives in Anchorage. During the pandemic my floor of the hospital has turned into a mostly full covid floor in the last year and a half. The amount of heartbreak and devastation that we have felt and gone through along side our patients is unimaginable.

|| Everyone is tired of Covid, believe me. Preaching to the choir on this topic, but one thing we do know is that a mask mandate works. Case and point - spring of last year. A mask mandate is one way that we can keep businesses, schools and restaurants open - and keep things on track to getting back to prepandemic "normal". | Our state is in a financial crisis and now a medical crisis - with this week having ___ hospitals throughout the state in "Crisis mode of care". This is a way to significantly slow the spread and decrease the number of daily cases, in result decrease hospital admissions throughout the state. A mask mandate is FREE. Let me repeat that again, A mask mandate is FREE way to get a handle on the covid crisis currently in Alaska. As a RN that is a life-long Alaskan, we are known for taking care of our neighbors - and this is what a mask mandate does, looks out for our neighbors. I think since we asked for help from FEMA and they left their own communities to show up to help our community combat our covid crisis, we need to need to do all that is in our power to slow the spread. I know you guys do not have an easy job and I thank you for all you have already done for our state. I am 100% FOR a Anchorage mask mandate. || https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/masking-science-sars-cov2.html#anchor_1619457210222 |

Name: Jessica Johnson

Date/Time Submitted: 10/3/2021 2:37:58 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Thank you for taking the time to listen to our testimony. My name is Jessica Johnson, I am a third-generation born and raised Alaskan. I have lived, worked, and played in Anchorage for 30 years. My parents own a small business in downtown Anchorage, and we have operated together as a family since 1998. Like many of our neighbors, the hardships we have faced personally and professionally throughout the pandemic have been unimaginable. We followed all guidance from public health professionals, scientists, health care workers, and our local government because we understood one simple concept: the virus was the enemy, not each other. At our business we implemented a mask requirement before the city ever did, because as a family, as business owners, we could not afford to get sick. We could not afford to take any time off. If my mother or I got ill, that would be the end of our business; the end of my parent's livelihood. My father also lives with an autoimmune disorder and is still recovering from cancer and chemotherapy from 2019. As we worked tirelessly 12-14 hours a day, six days a week, we could not afford to bring illness home. In the summer of 2020, the vast majority of our clientele were freight pilots. There is no doubt in my mind that I was exposed to COVID countless times each and every day, but mask wearing, social distancing, proper hand hygiene, and closing our dining room kept my family safe. However, in that time, we were called names, scoffed at, yelled at, and ridiculed. We also had an individual file a complaint to the Anchorage Equal Rights Commission and the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights for simply asking him to wear a mask in our establishment. To say it was the most mentally and physically taxing year of our lives would be understatement. However, I would do it all over again if it meant I would be lending a hand to our city's health care workers and keeping our community and businesses healthy and thriving. I do wish we didn't have to come to this point where our elected officials had to implement such mandates, but it has been made abundantly clear that our actions over the last few months on the individual level have not worked. A mask mandate is simply a means to an end. I know we ALL wish to resume normal life and put COVID-19 in the rearview mirror, but we cannot do that until we all take proper action together. |Anchorage residents, I implore you to remember: A community of kindness and compassion elevates us all. |

Name: Carl Brown

Date/Time Submitted: 10/3/2021 5:37:36 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: I rise in objection to this proposed ""Ordinance"". || In the words of a noted British professor in comments concerning a verbose Phd thesis - ""This is a diarrhea of words and a constipation of thought."" | It is my hope that the intent of this proposal is to be an expression of sincere concern for the health and welfare of the Anchorage citizens, but I fear after reading this that the intent of the Assembly is to play politics using the welfare of Anchorage as currency in a game of political chance against the mayor because of his stand. | Several countries around the world have completely dropped restrictions such as you suggest here, with a paradoxical drop in disease numbers. Have any of you wondered why that is? Or have all of you insisted following the current rhetoric as blind sheep, believing in the mis-information that the ""experts"" have put forward? | A few facts to ponder - N-95 masks filter between 0.20 - 0.26 microns depending on the manufacturer. The COVID virus is between 0.22-0.30. So you might have a protective mask or you might not. | Natural immunity is shown to provide between 13% - 27% better immunity over the vaccination. I had COVID in July this past year, and I contracted the infection from a FULLY vaccinated patient who came to me for treatment for their COVID! Of the patients I've treated since vaccinations became available, for active COVID, fully 30% or more were fully vaccinated. So do I need to get an ""iffy"" vaccination, and roll the dice as to whether I'll become one of the many thousands that had a fatal response? | I have treated every COVID positive patient with the FLCCC protocol, and not a one has had to go to the hospital, not one! Monoclonal Antibodies are part of the protocol I use and people live with full recovery! Why are we even discussing implementing recommendations as draconian mandates that have shown failure when there are effective treatment protocols that save lives?! We can save lives, and beat this ""Fauci Plague"", but not with your proposal!!! || I am happy to discuss this with any or all of you, to find a successful solution to protect Anchorage. But I promise you that I will work for total recall of the Assembly in total, if any part of this is passed and forced on the people of the city! ||

Name: Gretchen Nelson

Date/Time Submitted: 10/3/2021 6:23:03 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Ordinance

Testimony: I am writing in support of the very difficult work you are undertaking at this time. I am shocked, saddened and deeply disturbed by the behavior you have had to endure during the meetings of public testimony in regard to the mask ordinance. I applaud your service to our community, recognize your professionalism and appreciate your commitment to civility, the common good and a safe, inclusive city. My|I support any steps necessary to bring Covid cases down and support our hospital health care workers. I am fortunate enough to separate myself from public places and avoid exposure to the Delta variant, which is making us all sick. I want to emphasize that there are many, many Anchorage citizens who are NOT attending these public meetings in order to stay healthy and reduce the spread of Covid. |Anchorage truly is a wonderful community, we are fortunate to have you serving as our assembly, and make the tough decisions that will move us forward. |Thank you, stay well. |Gretchen Nelson|PS I wear a mask inside all buildings to support the health of the community.

Name: Kathy Kuletz

Date/Time Submitted: 10/3/2021 8:12:38 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91; public health actions related to Covid-19

Testimony: Dear Assembly members, | | I am in support of efforts to increase vaccination among citizens and use of masks to reduce exposure to Covid-19. I support mandatory vaccinations for anyone working with the public, including those in health care, restaurant and other service industries, schools, day care, and elder care facilities, federal and state workers. I also support mask mandates for all public indoor spaces until our infection level for Covid-19 declines to safer levels. | | I appreciate your work and have been appalled at the behavior exhibited by other citizens towards you and towards others who are trying to reduce risk of infection during this pandemic. | | Thank you for your service, | Kathy Kuletz

Name: Elizabeth Ortiz

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 6:21:24 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: This testimony is in support of additional COVID-19 protection measures including the "mask mandate". I am appalled at the behavior of the very loud minority, and the treatment that assembly members have received during this meeting. Most people in Anchorage are concerned with the extremely high case rates we are currently experiencing, and are supportive of a short-term mitigation plan including wearing masks in indoor spaces, especially as the weather will start bringing us inside. Until we can control the rates of transmission among our citizens, this virus will continue to infect us, and our families. People will die. A small sacrifice of masking is not too much to ask. Thank you, and thank you for caring about Anchorage and her people. Liz Ortiz, Spenardagain.

Name: Brian Brubaker

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 8:26:06 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: Hello, a mask mandate is needed now. It is for the greater good of our community. The benefits to public health for all justify the temporary inconvenience to some. Thank you. | |

Name: Matt Blakeslee

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 9:13:03 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: Please pass the mask mandate. As a born and raised Alaskan I am embarrassed that we continue to make national news because of our high cases and extreme hateful rhetoric on display at the assembly meetings. It's very clear that Mayor Bronson and Jamie Allard are fueling this hate and it needs to stop. Bronson and Allard, you're both making the place I have always called home a near intolerable place to live and I'm worried if you both continue you will insight violence from the far-right extremists! YOU BOTH WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT! You should be joining together to make this city a more prosperous and inviting place to live. To do that we need to get through this pandemic with masking and vaccines.

Name: PATRICK WITTROCK

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 9:25:40 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO-2021-91

Testimony: Dear Assembly Members, | | I would like to begin by thanking all of you for your outmost professionalism and the wonderful job you are doing managing our municipality - especially these days, during these very difficult, challenging times. You are all in our family's prayers. We worry about your safety as you host dozens of unvaccinated, unmasked individuals at your public meetings, all on our behalf, and we pray you stay well. | | I submit this written testimony to express that I strongly support the mask mandate. I am in the over-65 category and take this virus very seriously. With the surge of Delta cases in our community, I wear a mask everywhere I go, not only to protect myself but also to protect others. I only wish everyone else was doing the same. I don't go out in public except for basic necessities. I look forward to the day when I will feel free again to go into public areas without much concern. | | I believe the mask mandate is critical to the health of our community. (Of course, I believe Covid vaccines are even more important for this). As we all know, right now Alaska has the highest rate of infection/hospitalization in the world. This is not necessary! And from what I read, I understand there is no ""peak"" or ""plateau"" yet in sight for Covid hospitalizations in our state. Despite what our Mayor suggests with outdated graphs, I have read about study after study that show, statistically, masking is safe and helps slow the spread of Covid. Thus, masking, a simple, easy, non-invasive safety precaution (akin to wearing a set belt or hard hat) would at least slow down the hospitalization rate in our municipality. I am very sorry to see patients not able to get important medical services because there are no available hospital beds in this state. I pray myself and other loved ones don't find themselves in that situation. And I am very, very sorry to see the strain on our many dedicated, hardworking medical service providers who are suffering physically and mentally as a result of this surge. | | I think it is agreed that we would all like to get Covid ""behind"" us. Masking is one way to help do this.

Name: Joseph Wittrock

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 9:30:32 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO-2021-91 proposed masking ordinance

Testimony: Hello, | | I am a 19-year-old Anchorage resident who supports a mask mandate in our city. | | I wear a mask everywhere I go because I believe it is the right thing to do, to try to stop Covid in our town. I don't think it is a big deal to do this. And most of my friends don't either. | | I want life to return to normal as soon as possible and I think everyone masking will help us get there faster. I think it will also save many lives. | | Thank you for your time.

Name: Katy Soden

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 10:18:54 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91 - ""mask mandate""

Testimony: Assembly Members: || I am an Anchorage resident writing to urge you to pass a time-limited mask mandate. It is well past time for our community to take decisive action to slow the spread of Covid. Given the capacity issues in our hospitals, it is terrifying to think that my family might not receive adequate emergency care if something were to happen to us. I am concerned about having my elderly parents come to visit us in case they needed hospital care. I am also deeply concerned about the long-term harm this Covid surge will do to our local economy. What businesses are going to be willing to invest in Anchorage knowing that our elected officials - particularly Mayor Bronson and his administration - have allowed our city and health care system to be absolutely crippled by their political refusals to promote masking and vaccination? Despite what some people want to believe, we know that masking works to slow the spread of Covid and the fact that ASD schools have been able to remain open to students with limited Covid spread shows that masking can work here. Please pass this mandate and do not let the vocal and hateful anti-mask minority allow our entire community to be derailed. || Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. Katy Soden

Name: Tom Tomasi

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 10:59:21 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask

Testimony: Since when did the assembly Think they can use Gestapo like tactics against the people? For those of u that are trying this should be fired if not incarcerated for abuse of power and using that power as a threatening manner to the people of Anchorage

Name: Doug McBride

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 11:07:43 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 20212-91

Testimony: I strongly support AO-91 Public Mask Mandate. The Alaska healthcare system is overwhelmed with 20 hospitals now in crisis care. JBER has instituted Covid mitigation that clearly recognizes normal visitation with Anchorage as a credible threat. ASD is struggling to maintain in-person school. Anchorage and Alaska have the highest Covid infection rate in the country. Doing nothing is clearly ineffective, have no expectation of the Governor taking any decisive action, and need to take action to support our public schools and military. If this is veto'd by Mayor Bronson, I support overriding that veto. ||Thank you.||Doug McBride|Eagle River

Name: Marilyn Tibbetts

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 11:41:35 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate _ AO No.2021-91(S)

Testimony: As a 45 year resident and citizen of Anchorage, I am appalled at the behavior of Mayor Bronson. I vote in every election, city, state & nationally. I did not vote for Bronson as I felt he expressed poor judgment in his ability to lead & unite the citizens of Anchorage. || It is outrageous & frightening that he supports, incites & encourages anti-public health protestors. His recent support of these protestors using the Nazi yellow Star of David in comparison to possible mask mandates & vaccine requirements to protect the health & well-being of the citizens of Anchorage is extremely alarming! It also is embarrassing & disgraceful that Anchorage has made national news as a result of his appalling statements in this regard. This Mayor is endangering the health & well-being of the citizens of Anchorage. || As representatives of the citizens of Anchorage, one of your duties is to listen to the concerns and suggestions of Anchorage citizens. I fear you are not hearing from citizens like myself right now as the anti-health protestors have become very aggressive, both verbally & physically, to anyone who does not agree with them. Their bullying behavior is meant to be intimidating. And it certainly is. I certainly do not feel safe to attend a Municipal Assembly Meeting as long as these aggressive bullies are allowed to stomp out all civility in the meetings. Please re-read that sentence again! || It is time to put a stop to these aggressive, violent protestors and to the Mayor who incites, supports & encourages their dangerous behavior. || Each Assembly member should vote for this Mask Mandate, | AO 2021-91(S) immediately before the lives of Anchorage citizens are threatened further by this pandemic.

Name: Laurie Montano

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 12:59:36 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I am a primary care physician in Anchorage and wish to include my support for a mask mandate in the record. My office has been seeing patients in person since June of 2020 with a mask mandate. We spend more than 15 minutes in small exam rooms with both healthy and sick adults. We have not had one staff member become ill with Covid and have had several positive cases come through our office. The data from the studies are clear (the current studies, not those from last year that Mayor Bronson was referencing) that masking reduces the spread of Covid. I am in favor of a mask mandate in Anchorage to protect the vulnerable and children not old enough to be vaccinated.
|Thank you, |Laurie Montano, MD

Name: Nicole Berhow

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 2:13:44 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I support the passing of a public mask mandate to support our hospital workers and reduce the spread of CoVid 19. |

Name: Laura Tanis

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 2:22:41 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Ordinance #A0 2021-91 Public Health & Safety Measures for COVID-10 Pandemic

Testimony: Dear Mayor Bronson and members of the Anchorage Assembly, | | I support a mask mandate as a safety measure to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. I understand that many people don't like the idea of such a mandate and believe that it infringes on their liberties. However, liberty won't mean much if those same individuals become infected with COVID-19 and face serious health consequences. We have to get away from the mentality that ""it's all about me."" We need to be considerate of others, especially those with compromised health. Please wear a mask for yourselves, your loved ones, your friends, your neighbors, and our community. Many restaurants have signs that say, ""No shirt, no shoes, no service."" The same should apply to wearing masks in public places. ""No mask, no service."" I wish we could trust people to just do the right thing and wear a mask. Sadly, that doesn't appear to be the case, and that's why we need a mandate. | | Statewide, there have been 550 residents who have died from COVID-19. Of those, 274 in Anchorage have lost their lives to the pandemic. That is far too many. Alaska has the highest rate per capita in the nation of COVID-19 cases. All of this is easily preventable by taking safety measures. Getting vaccinated offers significant protection. However, for those who choose not to get vaccinated, doing a simple thing such as wearing a mask protects the wearer and those around him or her. Those who refuse to wear a mask are infringing on the freedom of others by putting them at risk of becoming infected, possibly needing hospitalization or facing a worse outcome. | | We would all like for our lives to return to normal. The sooner we all start wearing masks in public places, the sooner caseloads will decrease. Our economy will rebound. We all deserve to be safe. We deserve to have a healthy economy. A measure to mandate that people wear masks in public places is absolutely necessary to make that happen. | | Thank you. | | Respectfully, | Laura Tanis

Name: Ryan Rivers

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 4:02:36 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: To the Anchorage Assembly, good afternoon. | My name is Ryan Rivers. I am currently a graduate student at UAA, and I reside in the Taku/Campbell part of district 4 in Anchorage. I am reaching out to you on behalf of myself regarding the proposed Assembly ordinance 2021-91. I am writing to encourage you to draft a mask mandate that is suitable for our city. | Having attended the last few meetings of the Anchorage Assembly (starting on September 28th), I have heard much public opposition (and that's putting it as politely as I can, given what else happened) to the proposal. The reasons range from being opposed to children wearing masks in school, to people being unable to wear masks due to their own deficient mental health, to the argument that people themselves should have the right to choose for and by themselves what is right for them. I wanted to take the opportunity to respond to these one at a time to better assess each argument. | Regarding children wearing masks in school, that, as I understand it, is a requirement of the Anchorage School District's school board. They, in their wisdom, chose to implement a mask mandate for the safety of the students who attend. They did not want COVID-19 spreading in their facilities when they had a means to control the issue and stop it from spreading further. Any public participants who would want that policy changed need to approach the school board, not the Assembly. Furthermore, AO 2021-91 clearly articulates under section 4(A) that children under the age of two would not have to wear masks while in public. Also, children ages two through five would also not be required to wear masks. While the policy in schools may differ, the proposed policy clearly states this exception and should otherwise not disturb parents of young children. | A second piece of opposition comes from those whose physical and/or mental health may prevent them from wearing a mask. Section 4(I) states that these people would not be required to wear a mask. This brings up a point that I would ask the Assembly to clarify further: how do we recognize whether or not a person is physically and/or mentally able to wear a mask? There is potential in this exception for people to claim an exception where they would not normally be entitled to one. It may be better for the Assembly, should it consider passing this ordinance, to clarify the requirements of this exception so that people do not have to guess, nor can people exploit the ordinance for their own convenience. | Finally, people have argued that the public should have the right to choose whether or not to use masks. They claim that to take away this right violates their own personal rights and freedoms. While I am not unsympathetic to these ideas, it should be noted that COVID-19 is highly communicable and carriers may be asymptomatic. In other words, people who unknowingly carry the virus may spread it and not even be aware of it. If the right to choose to wear a mask is recognized, COVID-19 will continue to be spread. If COVID-19 spreads (as it has been shown recently), it means that people who are vaccinated and masked are going to pay a price for that in the form of businesses being affected and people getting sick. Those who were responsible about handling this pandemic (getting vaccinated and using masks as needed) are having to pay for the actions of the few who refuse to recognize the danger presented by COVID-19. While the use of the phrase ""give me liberty or give me death"" sounds patriotic and powerful on paper, 558 Alaskans have died and 113,037 Alaskans have contracted the virus since the pandemic began (source: <https://alaska-coronavirus-vaccine-outreach-alaska-dhss.hub.arcgis.com/>). Those Alaskans who suffered and died lost the chance to choose like others in the public had. Ensuring the public health of the community in the interest of protecting lives is a perfectly valid argument to pass this ordinance. | Having argued against some of the public testimony I've heard thus far, I did want to give my own concerns regarding AO 2021-91. While I myself am not opposed to

a mask mandate, I do find some of the parts of the proposed ordinance troubling. Section 4(H) gives an exception for those people performing tasks that cannot be conducted (or safely conducted) while wearing a mask. This section should be clarified further, as it is subject to interpretation. I myself don't know what this means precisely. If this exception cannot be clarified further, I would suggest to strike it from the proposed ordinance since non-specific policies can lead to conflicts in good faith. | I'm also in opposition to section 10 of the proposed ordinance as it sits. While I appreciate the attempt to give the public a means of relief, these civil corrections would come at a pace too slow to make an impact in the here and now. Using these mechanics would mean going through the judicial process to make an appropriate determination, a process that requires time. By allowing such time, significant harm may already be done; the virus (if a person is infected and unmasked) would have greater chance to spread further. We can fairly assume that the costs of hospital stays are far more than the proposed civil relief in section 10 of the proposed ordinance. Because of this, I would ask the Assembly find a different mechanic for the enforcement of the ordinance. It might include language to allow for civil relief (like in section 10), but it should not be the only means of relief one can seek. | It is my hope that the Anchorage Assembly and Mayor Bronson can come to some kind of agreement regarding a mask mandate. It would serve the public good by limiting the spread of COVID-19 and prevent those who are at risk from getting sick. By acting in the interest of the community, we can better protect residents from the risk, and consequences, of infection. | Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Steve Perrins II

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 7:50:17 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: Assembly Chair and Members, Mayor Bronson, thank you for this opportunity to express my thoughts on this proposal. I did not get enough time to share my thoughts in person so please consider these written comments as well. | My name is Steve H. Perrins II, I was born in Alaska, I love this State and will live here my entire life God willing. I am a concerned father of two young children. | First off, I have got to believe that you are all serving up there because you want to help our community and that you're not doing it for the power, pay prestige etc. | If that is truly the case than I would encourage you to really consider a few facts so that you can come to the best decision for our community and truly work on things that will more positively affect all of us. | I assume that you are considering a mask mandate because you think it will help with the Covid deaths and hospital crowding. | First thing we should answer is if the masks actually work at stopping the coronavirus. So, If a person with the Covid virus wears a mask and wearing a mask works then it would stop the spread of the virus right? If that in fact stops the spread of the virus then a person without Covid would be protected if they wore a mask regardless of the fact that the person with Covid wore one or not. If it blocks the virus in one case, it would block it in the other case. This information is supported by a New York Times article reported on September 22nd, 2021 and back up by several research studies, they found, and I quote, ""There is plenty of evidence showing that masks protect the wearer even when others around them are mask free. "" - therefore it would stand to reason that wearing a mask should be a personal decision - if you don't care if you get the virus don't wear one, if you are at risk of serious complications and believe that masks work, than wear one. | The studies show that the level of protection has a very wide variance depending on the type of mask and how they are worn. The CDC reported that a standard surgical mask only protected the wearer from about 7.5% of the particles generated by a simulated cough, that's not very high. But if you double knot the loops, tuck them in and cover that mask with a cloth mask (double masking) than exposure to the same cough covers up to 83% protection. I'll tell you right now that if a mask mandate is put into place, you won't have everyone doing the 83% double masking, so you're only talking about 7.5% protection. Furthermore a Danish study of 6000 participants had half the people wear masks and the results showed no benefit to mask wearing. By the way, the CDC reported in July of 2020 that 71% of Covid infected case patients ""always"" wore masks, so why do we think this will help? | The hospitals are getting crowded for reportedly 2 reasons: 1- scarce resources and 2- more cases of Covid ; Which is normal and to be expected as there was a huge spike in cases this same time last year. It's a normal thing for flu and cold symptoms to spike in the fall, it always happens, we all knew it was coming and our focus should have been on preparing the hospitals, that's where our efforts could be best served to help save lives, give the hospitals the resources they need to succeed! That is better than oppressing the people of our community. | | The fact is that Alaska has the 4th lowest death rate of all State's which is 0.00076% Of course every life lost is a tragedy but overall that is not a very big number when compared to Cancer, Heart Disease, Accidents, and Respiratory Disease, which are all higher than that in Alaska. You can't do anything about cancer you might argue, I'll get back to that in a second. The fact is that the previous laws and mandates imposed by this government and others has increased the suicide rates which is almost as high as COVID rates. The Alaska Careline crisis hotline saw a 51 percent increase in the number of callers by December of 2020, according to the state's report. When comparing Alaska to other States we have the 4th lowest COVID death rate yet the second highest suicide death rate. The CDC is currently saying that 2021 for Alaska so far has the

highest rate it's seen in the last 6 years. | My wife and I have run a camp for at-risk youth for the last 9 years and we encountered more depression and suicide attempts this year than any other in our past experience. Research has shown that Socially active teens are healthier than their loner peers in key areas such as weight, blood pressure, and stress hormone levels; according to an article by TODAY.com and backed by research from Kathleen Mullan Harris, James Haar Distinguished professor of sociology at the university of North Carolina. Communication is 90% non-verbal and when kids cannot see each other because of masks, interact and be social, it is hurting them. The most common thing we heard from our youth this year was that they just wanted a friend...how sad is that? This is what these mandates are doing to our community. They are dividing us, not bringing us together. | So if our assembly is truly concerned with death rates, shouldn't it work on attacking those other leading causes instead of going after one that has much lower death rate, especially when the mandates you are looking at contributes to increased death rates in the other areas? Now back to Cancer, maybe you can't cure cancer but when you look at things like smoking which kills an average of 600 people a year in Alaska according to the CDC, now think about that for a moment...that is almost 3 times Covid's rate. So why isn't smoking outlawed??? After all it is the most leading preventable cause of death in the US according to the CDC. Maybe it's because our government collects tax from it. Does that mean that as long as the deaths are bringing in money for our government than you're okay with it? This entire double standard and lack of common sense leaves me to think that this is all about control, money and power, not really about saving lives. I sure hope that isn't the case. | Please don't change Anchorage's slogan to a ""Small, Oppressed Life with a Big Wild Government"" | And while we are on the subject of masks, I think it is a real shame that our children have to wear masks in school. This is the age where they are supposed to be building their immunities by exposure. What kind of problems are we causing them down the road because they were not exposed to things at a young healthier age. If you get chicken pox when you're older you could die, but as a kid it's pretty safe, that's why they used to have chicken pox block parties to get all the kids purposely exposed to it at a young age. One reason I heard the kids are wearing masks is to protect elderly people back home...so essentially we are trying to protect our oldest generation at the expense of our youngest generation! Does that seem fair to them? I would encourage our Mayor to have a talk with his employees at the ASD about that. | COVID sucks, I hate that it's taking lives but until we find a cure or most people get it and build natural immunities or our younger generation builds up immunities to it so that it's not killing as many people then it is here to stay. Just like the flu there will be new variants each year. If you are vulnerable than take precautions. But please let's focus on real and effective ways to mitigate it without squandering our rights. Let's stop the fear mongering and constant covid case reports that the media and our politicians are constantly spouting. Instead let's focus on ways to bring our community back together, and help those who are suffering. | I'll leave you with a brief story of my last living grand parent who died because of COVID. My Mom's Dad was one of the most social people I have ever met, he loved people and sharing stories and being around them. He recently passed away in a nursing home, he never had COVID but the mandates that were created killed him sooner than he should have gone because he was locked in his room, not allowed to go for walks or see other people, so he sat on his couch and in his bed as his body got weaker and weaker due to lack of exercise. It is a real shame that this social, people loving man after a long life of community involvement had to die all alone, without his family or friends around him. How can we be treating our older generation that way? What a shame at the end of your life to die all alone because of government mandates. Let us choose for ourselves what risks we want to take. The government should not be in the business of individual medical decisions, after all this is America, land of the free and we live in the Last Frontier! | You have the position, resources and power to heal our community, ease the pains of those afflicted by this pandemic both directly and indirectly. Please be the leaders that our community need. Bring us together don't tear us apart by a mandate like this.

In this time of crisis, you can truly make a difference! Search your heart, look at the research, look at common sense and choose to do things that will make a real and positive difference for our community. | Thank you for your time, | Steve H. Perrins II

Name: Alexander Taylor

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 8:47:49 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No, 2021-91

Testimony: To the Anchorage Assembly: || I am writing in support of AO No, 2021-91, regarding Covid-19 mitigation measures. I have read the ordinance, and feel it includes reasonable exceptions. || Here are 3 scientific papers regarding the efficacy of face masks in preventing the spread of disease: | https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fGTUxYZLFug8EcryhaJE_zMxyWzcV15?usp=sharing || The basic summary for all of them is that any mask is better than nothing, and the better the mask, the better the filtration. Additionally, masks are only one tool in an effort to prevent the spread of disease. || I trust the scientific method, so I trust the information in the papers I shared. Sunday morning, 3 October, my daughter tested positive for COVID-19. In the days prior we had 2 events with people we trust, but this expanded our bubble more than we had previously. Unfortunately, my family is now quarantined, however, we still need supplies. After 2 online pick-up orders that didn't have all the items we needed due to stock issues, I decided I could risk a quick trip to the store in person. I used the new knowledge I gained by reading those articles and wore 2 masks; I put on a disposable surgical mask, and a homemade cloth mask on top to help seal the surgical mask. I did this to protect my community from me, being a potential vector of infection. || None of the tools we have (masks, vaccination, social distancing, social isolation) are 100% effective on their own but combined they are highly effective at minimizing the risk of infection. || Please review the attached articles. We have laws requiring seatbelts to protect ourselves. We have laws regulating smoking indoors to protect people other than the smoker. This ordinance will help to protect the wearer and those around the wearer. This ordinance is temporary. This ordinance is to protect the community. || Sincerely, || Alexander Taylor (he/him/his) | Alaska Voter ID 8571431

Name: Anna Tileston

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 9:25:57 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91(S)

Testimony: I am strongly in favor of implementing a mask requirement in Anchorage. It has become glaringly obvious from the increased number of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations that individuals are not taking responsibility for protecting our community. At this point, if I'm in a car accident or something similar I wouldn't be able to get the hospital care required because of the lack of resources. | Our health care infrastructure is on the point of breaking.

Name: Mike Mason

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 9:49:03 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: As a lifelong Anchorage resident and a local business owner I fully support AO 2021-91 and other public health measures based on scientific evidence to reduce the transmission of covid-19. || My business has been essentially shuttered for the past two years due to the risks of gathering indoors. I put on dance music events and though some of my competitors have chosen to endanger the public by continuing to operate I don't feel doing so is right, especially when Anchorage has virtually NO PUBLIC HEALTH SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE!!! || Our anti-science anti-mask mayor needs to be stripped of his power and influence over Anchorage public safety enforcement. || If you aren't protecting the public you aren't doing your jobs as public servants. || Please do your jobs. Please protect your constituents.

Name: Paul Kari

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 10:03:05 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I would like to offer my comments on the proposed AO 2021-91. Although I'm disappointed that we find ourselves in a community and state with such continued high Covid-19 case counts, I feel this AO is the only option our community has to impact meaningful change to our current health crisis. As the governor and mayor have declined to act, it does appear that this AO is the only way we as a community can respond. I fully support the community and to me that means everyone working together to make our home as safe a place for all people as can be. At this time, the mandating of mask wearing in indoor spaces is the least we can do. I fully support the assembly taking action on this AO and passing it for the good of the community despite the threat of mayoral veto.

Name: Robin Brooks

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 10:07:50 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I support the mask mandate for the Municipality of Anchorage. My workplace already requires masks anytime we are inside a building near other people. We are permitted to remove them if we are in an individual office (not cubicles) or if eating/drinking in designated areas. I have felt safer in my workspace than in just about any other space in Anchorage. I recognize that my employer takes the pandemic event seriously and cares about my wellbeing. Please, Assembly, please help drive down the crisis in our community by taking this one simple, small measure. I understand many of my fellow citizens are frustrated about the pandemic and are taking out their frustrations in front of a microphone, and while we can empathize with the pandemic exhaustion, we still need to recognize that it is ongoing and more prevalent than ever in Alaska. Please vote to approve the mandate. Thank you for your time and service.

Name: Elly Nordstrom

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 10:47:02 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I strongly oppose the mask mandate. As Dr. Anne Zinc said herself, ""A mask is a wet, moist environment that's collecting viruses and bacteria...it's not useful to protect you from other people""(Feb.2020). We shouldn't need masks now that we have the vaccine. They are worse for the our health!|Thank you for your consideration and please do what's best for our health. ||

Name: Lillie Hadley

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 11:45:19 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO-2021-91

Testimony: Good evening Anchorage Assembly, || I would like to introduce myself to being. My name is Lillie Hadley, but I go by Grace. I am in my 20 and by all outward appearances a young, healthily, low risk individual. However that is misleading you see I take immune suppressants to keep my chronic, progressive, illness called Ankylosing Spondylitis in check. This medication that allows me to remain strong enough to work, see friends and family, and enjoy my life with low pain and fatigue, are also what make me high risk for Covid. || This leaves me trapped between isolating myself or risking my life every time I go to work, or see someone I love. However it doesn't need to. If Anchorage was to require masks indoors and at large events we could slow the spread of Covid and hopefully bring our numbers down. In doing so life for all of us would be safer. || This refusal of a part of Anchorage to consider the lives of those around them and their personal responsibility to our city is ruining Anchorage as we know it. Alaska is known for caring about others and helping one another. I always brag about that when I talk about the city I was born in, and yet now we are cultivating a reputation of hate, and death. || Please help reverse that and pass AO 2021-91.

Name: Ashleigh Hebnes

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 12:14:16 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: I would mainly ask the assembly to amend the mask mandate with language that omits the case count and focuses on hospital capacity. This structures the mandate more around the intent of the proposal and I feel would help the community to ""swallow"" the ask of the mandate. |Thank you|

Name: Laurie Love

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 1:03:51 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate AO No. 2021-91 (S)

Testimony: Please consider our liberties over fear in regards to wearing masks. Science shows that masks do not decrease the spread of the virus, but that they are unhealthy for the wearer. There is an agenda to limit our freedoms in America. Read the Department of Defense SALUS Report which shows the true reason for the increase in |Covid 19 is due to the vaccinations. Get the true facts. Stop quoting the CDC which has a political agenda. |Vote against the mask mandate!

Name: Nancy Ordway

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 1:07:34 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: You need to enforce the CDC regulations to help stop the Virus from Spreading|This means anyone who is |Asymptomatic can be charged with a crime also how many people was in the Assembly hall that was unmasked, unvaccinated, Covid - 19 and exposed the other people to it|the ones who are Asymptomatic don't get tested and have no systems so they spread it to everyone else which is a CRIME|so make testing Mandatory as well as mask and the vaccine| |How can I protect my unvaccinated family members?|Masked unvaccinated child|These are the best ways to protect your unvaccinated family members, including children who cannot get vaccinated yet:| |Get vaccinated yourself. COVID-19 vaccines reduce the risk of people getting COVID-19 and can also reduce the risk of spreading it.|Be sure to get everyone in your family who is 12 years or older vaccinated against COVID-19.|Wear a mask.|To maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, have everyone in your family, even those who are vaccinated, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission.|You might choose to have everyone in your family, even those who are vaccinated, wear a mask indoors in public regardless of the level of transmission in your area.|Unvaccinated family members, including children 2 years and older, should wear a mask in all indoor public settings.|To set an example, you also might choose to wear a mask.|Do NOT put a mask on children younger than 2 years old.| |Wear a mask| |If you are not fully vaccinated and aged 2 or older, you should wear a mask in indoor public places.|In general, you do not need to wear a mask in outdoor settings.|In areas with high numbers of COVID-19 cases, consider wearing a mask in crowded outdoor settings and for activities with close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated.|People who have a condition or are taking medications that weaken their immune system may not be fully protected even if they are fully vaccinated. They should continue to take all precautions recommended for unvaccinated people, including wearing a well-fitted mask, until advised otherwise by their healthcare provider.|If you are fully vaccinated, to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission.|If you are fully vaccinated, see When You've Been Fully Vaccinated.|Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is required on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and while indoors at U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations. Travelers are not required to wear a mask in outdoor areas of a conveyance (like on open deck areas of a ferry or the uncovered top deck of a bus).|Stay 6 feet away from others|Inside your home: Avoid close contact with people who are sick.|If possible, maintain 6 feet between the person who is sick and other household members.|Outside your home: Put 6 feet of distance between yourself and people who don't live in your household.|Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.|Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) from other people.|Keeping distance from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick. | |Prosecuting Purposeful Coronavirus Exposure as Terrorism|On March 24, Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen sent U.S. attorneys and federal law enforcement agencies a memo informing Department of Justice officials that they should consider prosecuting certain ""purposeful exposure or infection of others with COVID-19"" under federal terrorism-related statutes. The memo followed warnings from the FBI that white supremacist groups were encouraging members who become sick to spread the virus to Jewish people, minorities and police officers-suggesting that members could use spray bottles, leave bodily fluids on door handles or even spit on elevator

buttons. Meanwhile, local news continues to report on cases in which individuals purposefully have coughed on or touched other people and products in grocery stores and other venues across the country. || Because of the infectious nature of the coronavirus, a single individual could easily transmit the virus to several people, causing the number of infected individuals to increase exponentially. Requests for people to socially distance and follow hygienic standards can curtail the spread among well-intentioned individuals, but both the United States and other governments are looking to criminal law to punish ill-intentioned individuals who seek to spread the virus to others and violate social distance guidelines. As concerns about the coronavirus increase, prosecutors may seek to charge such individuals with simple assault (as a Maryland prosecutor has), breach of peace (as a Connecticut prosecutor has) or even attempted murder (as prosecutors in South Africa have). || In the past week, some state prosecutors have started to charge coronavirus-related cases as terroristic threat and assault cases. But using terrorism statutes as tools to deter this behavior may prove problematic. Prosecuting these cases as terrorism—a charge that tends to carry heavier sentences than other criminal offenses—may allow the government to aggressively deter any malicious spread of the coronavirus. At the same time, however, courts and the public may view such prosecutions as improperly stretching terrorism statutes. || In Pennsylvania, a man was charged for making terroristic threats after deliberately coughing while smiling and laughing near an elderly man who was wearing a medical face mask. The man had told the victim he had COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus. A similar event occurred in New Jersey, where a man allegedly purposefully coughed on a grocery store employee and said that he was infected with the coronavirus. That man was also charged with terroristic threats. In Missouri, a man was charged with making terroristic threats when he posted a video of himself licking packages at a Walmart and saying, "Who's scared of coronavirus?" Pennsylvania prosecutors also recently charged a woman with making terroristic threats and a threat to use a "biological agent" after coughing on \$35,000 worth of food in a grocery store. Given the number of cases that have appeared already, it is possible that these cases will start showing up on a larger scale. || These incidents raise two clusters of questions. First, what are the underlying anti-terrorism statutes on which these prosecutions are or might be based, and how well do the statutes fit with these fact patterns? Second, even if it is feasible to use these statutes to prosecute those deliberately spreading the virus, should prosecutors do so? || The Basis for Federal Prosecutions | The Rosen memorandum lists several federal statutes that may be relevant. The most important is 18 U.S.C. § 2332a, which criminalizes the use of weapons of mass destruction. The statute makes it a federal offense to use, threaten, or attempt to use or conspire to use a "weapon of mass destruction" against persons within the United States. Section 2332a(c)(2) defines that term to include "any weapon involving a biological agent, toxin, or vector," as those terms are defined in 18 U.S.C. § 178, which in turn defines "biological agents" to include viruses "capable of causing death, disease, or other biological malfunction in a human." Hence, using a weapon involving a virus capable of causing death would be a federal offense. || Unlike many federal terrorism statutes, Section 2332a does not require the government to prove that the offense contains a transnational or foreign element—so an infected person who maliciously coughs on someone else might be charged even if she is not doing so as part of a campaign to, for example, support the Islamic State. The individual need not have the specific intent to kill the victim to be found guilty of a violation of § 2332a. A person found guilty of a violation of § 2332a faces imprisonment for any term of years or for life; if the offense causes death, the person could face the death penalty. || Justice Department prosecutors who seek to charge deliberate coronavirus spreaders under § 2332a will confront two challenges: the narrower issue of whether and how such cases meet the interstate commerce element required under the statute, and the broader question of whether the statute reaches these cases at all. || The relevant interstate commerce provision of 18 U.S.C. § 2332a(a)(1)(D) requires that "the offense, or the results of the offense, affect interstate or foreign commerce, or, in the case of a threat, attempt,

or conspiracy, would have affected interstate or foreign commerce." In a specific sense, an interaction that exposes people to the coronavirus usually will occur between individuals within the same state or locality (unless someone coughs across state lines). And as governors begin to limit non-essential travel both within and between states in response to the coronavirus, the ability of malicious virus spreaders to affect interstate commerce may become even more limited—especially if a court takes a restrictive view of that requirement. | | But in the past, courts have interpreted the requirement expansively. The anthrax hoax cases in the early 2000s demonstrate that the interstate commerce element seems to require the prosecution only to show a minimal effect on interstate commerce or show that the effect is reasonably probable. One example is *United States v. Davila*, a 2006 anthrax hoax case, in which the defendant mailed "anthrax" (actually baby powder) from his Connecticut prison to the Connecticut State Attorney's office. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit found that the government met the interstate commerce element because it presented testimony that (1) a postal facility would be shut down, requiring the rerouting and delay of interstate mail, and (2) trucks would have to travel on the interstate highway system to transport treatment drugs. | | To be clear, it is not sufficient for the government to merely allege that out-of-state personnel are required to respond to the incident. Rather, a court must find that the incident had or would have had direct effects on interstate commerce. That can be shown if responders needed to bring or use supplies that traveled across state lines or to use or lodge at facilities that engage in interstate commerce. And as *Davila* shows, the interstate commerce element may also be satisfied where the government can show that distribution facilities engaging in interstate commerce must be shut down, interstate mail or shipping must be delayed, or even that the government would have used interstate highways to transport federal drugs to assist in the response. | | The broader legal problem in pursuing federal terrorism charges against coronavirus spreaders is that courts may prove unwilling to extend anti-terrorism federal laws, including 18 U.S.C. § 2332a, to these cases. The Supreme Court's decision in *Bond v. United States* suggests that this may be a real hurdle. There, in a domestic dispute, defendant Carol Bond powdered another person's mailbox and doorknob with a burning chemical that resulted in a minor thumb burn. The Supreme Court interpreted 18 U.S.C. § 229, the implementing statute for the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention, to exclude run-of-the-mill uses of harmful chemicals in purely local, low-level assaults. The Court found no "clear indication" that Congress had intended § 229 to apply to the kind of conduct Bond had undertaken, especially where state laws appeared adequate to punish her actions. | | However, in *United States v. Fries*, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit held that the defendant's actions violated § 229. The facts of *Fries* are quite complicated and worth an independent read, but it centered on the defendant, Todd Russell Fries, setting off a homemade chlorine gas bomb in his former clients' driveway. Instead of throwing out the conviction under *Bond*, the appeals court drew an important distinction between the criminal conduct that occurred in *Bond* and the defendant's actions in *Fries*. In particular, the court found it important that the victim's thumb burn in *Bond* was easily treated with water, whereas the defendant's use of a chlorine bomb in *Fries* injured several people and caused the evacuation of a residential neighborhood. On that basis, the Ninth Circuit held that the conduct in *Fries* fell outside *Bond*'s narrow reasoning. Since the defendant's conduct constituted "possession of extremely dangerous substances with the potential to cause severe harm to many people," the court upheld the defendant's conviction under § 229. | | How might this guide courts deciding coronavirus terrorism cases? Although the *Bond* and *Fries* cases implicated a different statute, they might nevertheless inform how courts interpret § 2332a. If a court views § 2332a through the lens of *Bond*, it might find that the section's prohibition on the use of weapons of mass destruction was not intended to include an effort to use a widespread, infectious virus like the coronavirus as a "weapon." The inclusion of the term "biological agent" arose from the Senate's ratification of the 1975 Biological Weapons Convention, a treaty reflecting concerns that states might engage in

biological warfare. As the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit noted in *United States v. Wise*, 18 F.3d 2332a was arguably intended to supplement the implementing statute for that convention. It is therefore not evident that Congress's criminalization of the use of biological agents as weapons would extend to situations in which an individual purposefully exposes another to a virus at a purely local level. However, if a court pursues a Fries-like approach, it might uphold a 18 U.S.C. 2332a prosecution if a group were to take advantage of the coronavirus systematically—as the FBI reported white supremacist groups were considering—or if a court found that the coronavirus were extremely dangerous and that exposure to it has the potential to cause severe harm to many people. The Bases for State Prosecutions Many states criminalize terroristic threats, including Alaska, California, Georgia, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Generally, these statutes apply when an individual threatens to commit an act of terrorism and communicates that threat to any other person. In New York, for instance, a terroristic threat occurs when the individual makes a threat with the intent to intimidate or coerce civilians, and causes a reasonable expectation or fear of the offense (in this situation, infection). New Jersey also criminalizes making a threat that causes the evacuation of a building, place of assembly or facility of public transportation. In many states, including Michigan, it is no defense if the individual lacks the intent or capability to commit the offense. State prosecutors may have an easier time than their federal counterparts in one crucial way: They need not prove an interstate commerce component. As a result, these statutes may be especially useful in prosecuting (and deterring) purposeful exposure cases. It is not unprecedented for states to use their terroristic threat statutes against individuals who threaten to infect others. There are a fair number of cases, one in 1993 and one as recent as 2016, in which a state charged an individual with making a terroristic threat when he or she threatened to infect another person with HIV/AIDS. Many states criminalize the non-disclosure of HIV to a sexual partner and prosecute it as reckless endangerment, aggravated assault or even attempted murder, with the terroristic threat charge sometimes included as an add-on to the initial charge. Whether or not it is normatively desirable to use terroristic threat statutes in HIV cases, these incidents do show that states sometimes have successfully prosecuted individuals for making terroristic threats about spreading infection. They also foreshadow potential problems in COVID-19 prosecutions: Some defendants have successfully argued that the terroristic threat statute did not reach HIV-infection threats. In 2009, for example, an HIV-positive Michigan man was charged for biting his neighbor. Commentators argued that the law was not intended to apply in these cases, especially since assault charges may have sufficed. The judge dismissed the terrorism charges, finding that the individual did not possess HIV for an unlawful purpose and could not transmit it without the presence of blood. But in a 1993 New Jersey case, another individual was convicted of making terroristic threats, among other offenses, after biting a corrections officer and threatening to give the officer AIDS. The New Jersey court, while noting the absence of blood in the case, focused on the reasonableness of the victim's fear and determined that the jury reasonably concluded "that the defendant's words and conduct threatened death." Prosecutors may have more success in using the terroristic threats statutes in cases involving purposeful exposure to the coronavirus than in cases involving HIV for two reasons. First, the coronavirus is more infectious and transmissible than HIV. Courts have seemed hesitant in the HIV cases to find defendants guilty of making terroristic threats when it was not evident that the defendants could in fact infect the victims of the assault. The same concern should not be present in coronavirus prosecutions, because the virus can be easily transmitted through mere contact or by coughing or breathing on someone; the presence of blood is not required. Even if the infectious nature of a particular mode of transmission is disrupted, many of these statutes may focus on whether the victim's fear of contracting the virus is reasonable. And given the pace of cases and deaths, the fear of getting the virus from someone's cough or contact likely will be found to be reasonable. Second, courts may be more likely to entertain such prosecutions because the country

as a whole and many states individually are in declared periods of emergency. In such situations, states have broad authority to establish quarantines and order people to shelter in place. Of particular interest here is New Jersey's terroristic threat statute, which states: | A violation of this subsection is a crime of the second degree if it occurs during a declared period of national, State or county emergency. The actor shall be strictly liable upon proof that the crime occurred, in fact, during a declared period of national, State or county emergency. It shall not be a defense that the actor did not know that there was a declared period of emergency at the time the crime occurred. | Although many other state terroristic threat statutes do not include a similar provision, at least in New Jersey the existence of a declared period of emergency renders individuals strictly liable for making terroristic threats. | Normative Questions | It may be possible to prosecute purposeful coronavirus exposure cases at the federal and state levels, but two broader concerns arise. First, if prosecutors choose to prosecute such cases, should federal or state governments take the lead? Second, should these cases be prosecuted as "terrorism" at all? | In light of the track record of successful state prosecutions for infecting others with COVID-19 or other communicable diseases, perhaps states are best positioned to take the lead. But not all states with relevant statutes on the books may choose to prosecute purposeful exposure cases under their terrorism statutes or general-purpose criminal laws. This could result in a patchwork of prosecutions, where some states aggressively prosecute these individuals and some states don't. | A federal decision to prosecute purposeful exposure cases could reiterate-across the United States-the seriousness of these crimes. This uniform practice could achieve a stronger deterrent effect, especially in a pandemic, where it is critical to delay the spread of the virus. | The second, related question is whether federal and state prosecutors should treat these cases as terrorism cases at all. As Bobby Chesney noted in discussing domestic terrorism, states have "a wide array of general-purpose state criminal laws applicable to terrorist acts: murder, attempted murder, conspiracy." These laws, some of which might also apply to coronavirus infection cases, carry hefty sentences and are well established in the law. There is an argument, then, that there is no need to prosecute infection cases as "terrorism" cases. | More broadly, the average person who intentionally coughs on another person while he has COVID-19 may not be aware that he could be committing a terrorist act. The coronavirus pandemic arose suddenly and has few modern precedents. There is an argument that, before the government prosecutes a person as a terrorist for this act, Congress should make an affirmative decision that this type of behavior is a category of terrorism and enact a specific statute criminalizing it as such. After all, it is far from clear that either Congress or the state legislatures, in enacting terrorism laws, intended to cover these particular and novel instances of purposeful exposures to the coronavirus. At the same time, it is not unprecedented for anti-terrorism laws to be used in novel ways, and the cases referenced above show that their use in the current setting may not be that novel. | As a final point, to ensure that these prosecutions do not increase the spread of the virus, prosecutors may be wise to pursue summonsable charges that carry fines rather than terrorism charges that require the individual to be transported to jail or prison or that are punishable only by imprisonment. First, if officers charge offenses for which a summons may be issued, officers would not need to take the offending individual-who has or claims to have COVID-19-into custody and thereby risk greatly exposing themselves and inmates to the virus. The individual would have to return to her home and self-quarantine; and, if there's reason to believe she will not isolate herself, the court could employ home electronic monitoring or, more drastically, the police department could post officers outside her residence-as a Kentucky county sheriff's office did in one case-to prevent her from leaving. Second, by adopting a prosecution strategy that ultimately requires the individual to pay a fine (rather than be sentenced to prison or jail time), the individual will not further burden a system that is currently ill-equipped to isolate or treat COVID-19 patients. Prosecutors can still achieve the desired deterrent effect while not compromising the purpose of prosecution in the first place. | The intentional spread of the coronavirus cannot be tolerated and

should be taken very seriously. But it is not clear that federal and state governments should prosecute those intentionally spreading the virus under terrorism statutes. As long as terrorism statutes are not the only option for prosecutors, they should think hard about whether it is necessary to invoke these provisions to prevent, deter and punish this conduct. | Topics: Biodefense, Terrorism | 18 U.S.C. Â§ 178 | As used in this chapter- | (1) the term "biological agent" means any microorganism (including, but not limited to, bacteria, viruses, fungi, rickettsiae or protozoa), or infectious substance, or any naturally occurring, bioengineered or synthesized component of any such microorganism or infectious substance, capable of causing-(A) death, disease, or other biological malfunction in a human, an animal, a plant, or another living organism;(B) deterioration of food, water, equipment, supplies, or material of any kind; or(C) deleterious alteration of the environment;(2) the term "toxin" means the toxic material or product of plants, animals, microorganisms (including, but not limited to, bacteria, viruses, fungi, rickettsiae or protozoa), or infectious substances, or a recombinant or synthesized molecule, whatever their origin and method of production, and includes-(A) any poisonous substance or biological product that may be engineered as a result of biotechnology produced by a living organism; or(B) any poisonous isomer or biological product, homolog, or derivative of such a substance;(3) the term "delivery system" means-(A) any apparatus, equipment, device, or means of delivery specifically designed to deliver or disseminate a biological agent, toxin, or vector; or(B) any vector;(4) the term "vector" means a living organism, or molecule, including a recombinant or synthesized molecule, capable of carrying a biological agent or toxin to a host; and(5) the term "national of the United States" has the meaning prescribed in section 101(a)(22) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22)). | 18 U.S.C. Â§ 178 | Added Pub. L. 101-298, Â§3(a), May 22, 1990, 104 Stat. 202; amended Pub. L. 104-132, title V, Â§511(b)(3), title VII, Â§721(h), Apr. 24, 1996, 110 Stat. 1284, 1299; Pub. L. 107-188, title II, Â§231(c)(4), June 12, 2002, 116 Stat. 661. | EDITORIAL NOTES | AMENDMENTS2002-Par. (1). Pub. L. 107-188, Â§231(c)(4)(A), in introductory provisions substituted "means any microorganism (including, but not limited to, bacteria, viruses, fungi, rickettsiae or protozoa), or infectious substance, or any naturally occurring, bioengineered or synthesized component of any such microorganism or infectious substance, capable of" for "means any micro-organism, virus, infectious substance, or biological product that may be engineered as a result of biotechnology, or any naturally occurring or bioengineered component of any such microorganism, virus, infectious substance, or biological product, capable of". Par. (2). Pub. L. 107-188, Â§231(c)(4)(B), in introductory provisions substituted "means the toxic material or product of plants, animals, microorganisms (including, but not limited to, bacteria, viruses, fungi, rickettsiae or protozoa), or infectious substances, or a recombinant or synthesized molecule, whatever their origin and method of production, and includes-" for "means the toxic material of plants, animals, microorganisms, viruses, fungi, or infectious substances, or a recombinant molecule, whatever its origin or method of production, including-". Par. (4). Pub. L. 107-188, Â§231(c)(4)(C), substituted "recombinant or synthesized molecule," for "recombinant molecule, or biological product that may be engineered as a result of biotechnology,". 1996-Par. (1). Pub. L. 104-132, Â§511(b)(3)(A), substituted "infectious substance, or biological product that may be engineered as a result of biotechnology, or any naturally occurring or bioengineered component of any such microorganism, virus, infectious substance, or biological product" for "or infectious substance" in introductory provisions. Par. (2). Pub. L. 104-132, Â§511(b)(3)(B)(i), (ii), in introductory provisions, inserted "the toxic material of plants, animals, microorganisms, viruses, fungi, or infectious substances, or a recombinant molecule" after "means" and substituted "production, including-" for "production-". Par. (2)(A). Pub. L. 104-132, Â§511(b)(3)(B)(iii), inserted "or biological product that may be engineered as a result of biotechnology" after "poisonous substance". Par. (2)(B). Pub. L. 104-132, Â§511(b)(3)(B)(iv), inserted "or biological product" after "isomer". Par. (4). Pub. L. 104-132, Â§511(b)(3)(C), inserted "", or molecule, including a recombinant molecule, or biological product that

may be engineered as a result of biotechnology," after "organism".Par. (5). Pub. L. 104-132, Â§721(h), added par: | |

Name: Hannah Hennighausen

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 2:08:01 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14L

Testimony: My name is Hannah Hennighausen and I reside in district 4. I am a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Economics at the University of Alaska Anchorage. At UAA, I teach a Principles of Microeconomics course and conduct economic research about behavioral responses to environmental risk. I hold a PhD, Masters and Bachelors degrees in economics. ||The following is my testimony:| |Every day, all day, people make utility optimizing-decisions based on the costs and benefits of each choice. | |Should I go for a morning walk? On the one hand it is cold out, yet on the other hand I will clear my head. | |In the case of some of these daily decisions, my actions do not impact my neighbors' well-being. I , alone, bear all of the costs (it is cold) and all of the benefits (clearing my head) of my morning walk. For situations where all costs and benefits are self-contained, everyone acting in their own interest (i.e. making personal choices), yields the highest societal welfare. It's why Adam Smith wrote: ""it is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer or the baker that we expected our dinner, but from their regard for their own self-interest"". | |Many actions are not self-contained and instead involve externalities. Externalities refer to situations where my actions negatively or positively affect others. | |Consider, for example, the production decision of a paper factory located on a river. The profit-maximizing factory makes production decisions based on their individual benefits (e.g. potential revenues) and their individual costs (e.g. which production inputs they use). | |Suppose that through their production process, the factory releases pollution into the neighboring river. That same pollution negatively impacts the amount of fish fishermen are able to catch. Without government oversight, the profit-maximizing factory is not incentivized to take into account these additional costs on fishermen in their production decisions. What results is a lower total societal welfare than would occur otherwise had they internalized the additional costs. In short, in cases where there is a market failure (e.g. situations with externalities), it is actually welfare-improving for governments to step in and help people and firms internalize both the internal and external costs and benefits of their actions. In other words, an important role of government is to correct market failures arising from externalities. | |How does this quick Econ101 lesson relate to the mask mandate? | |Communicable diseases are inherently an externality problem. After all, why else do we cover our noses when we sneeze other than to prevent potential costs imposed on others by our sneeze? | |Mask-wearing is uncomfortable, and therefore costly. However, I think we can all agree that there are positive externalities to mask-wearing, namely limiting the spread of communicable diseases. Because I don't always take the positive externalities of masks into account when making my personal utility-optimizing decisions of whether to mask or not, it is imperative that the government step in and correct the market failure. I am asking that the Assembly pass a mask mandate to correct the market failure because correcting the market failure means that society will be better off. | |

Name: Michael Mraz

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 2:10:17 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I am a hospitalist physician in Anchorage . I support a mask mandate. I support science. I came to the Assembly meeting last week. It was by far the riskiest place I've been in since the covid pandemic started . I was shocked and horrified at the sheer numbers of unmasked people crowded together. I care for covid patients. Many have died and many more shall die. This is unacceptable. The looks of distain that I received for wearing a mask and my hospital badge are too much. I will be caring for more and more unvaccinated sick people with covid . What are we doing? This is insanity. We need sound leadership. The mayor is wrong. Wearing a mask is one small part of getting this nightmarish pandemic under control

Name: Joe Meehan

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 3:02:36 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Proposed ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: Respected Assembly Members - concerning the effectiveness and appropriateness of requiring masks to protect public health: the science appears to be clear yet the politics are muddy. || You have heard the science that clearly indicates masks help reduce the spread of Covid-19, despite those that twist the medical findings. There will always be those that argue the earth is flat and as this illogical reasoning pertains the effectiveness of reducing the spread of Covid-19, it's best acknowledged as their opinion yet discarded in reasoned decision making. || As for the politics of a ""mask mandate"" that revolve around personal freedoms: their freedoms end when the good of the community is impacted. We require seat belts to be worn in our motor vehicles, we require passengers to remain seated and belted when taking off and landing in aircraft, we disallow cigarette smoking in public places, we prohibit snow machines from racing down the Seward Highway, we require clothing to be worn at the grocery store, and there are thousands of other examples where someone may argue their personal freedoms are being violated. However, we as a society create rules and those rules include protecting fellow citizens when science and reason dictate sideboards on our actions and behaviors. || If you feel the science is clear, your decision to protect our community must also be clear. || Thank you for your service and efforts to help protect our community.

Name: Thomas Flanagan

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 4:20:59 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: Thank the Assembly for at least talking about doing something to improve our current COVID situation. We take COVID precautions seriously. We wear our masks everywhere. Yet on a recent short trip to Seattle, we felt that we were not doing our part to make the situation better. Everyone appeared to be more health conscious than we. It was nice to see a community of people working together to improve a situation that no wanted. Nobody wants to wear a mask. Nobody wants to get vaccinated. But a little self-sacrifice by all not only greatly improves the economic and well-being of the citizens but helps build a community. We are worried about the future of Alaska. We have found ourselves in a COVID ""minefield."" We do not know if there are few or many landmines. We do not know if you step on a landmine if you will die or get a sniffle. But many political leaders think the best option is to deny the existence of the minefield. They instead opt to distract Alaskans from the situation. If the tactic works, they might try the same course the next time we ourselves in a minefield. If this case proves true, consider it a warning to find a new community to live.

Name: Jessica Murphy

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 4:47:40 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I do not agree with forcing people to wear masks! I'm completely against it especially since there's not enough proof that they even work! I vote no on the proposed mask mandate.

Name: Kyna White

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 4:50:27 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I am in favor of the mask mandate due to high case numbers and low vaccination rates

Name: Matty Sanders

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 4:52:36 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: NO Mask mandate

Testimony: NO MASK MANDATE WANTED

Name: Germaine Thomas

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 5:17:36 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: I am for the mask mandate. I am a teacher at East High School and I know that students have gotten Covid-19 while in school, but they have not spread it to me or to others in school. Masks work, so do vaccines, but unfortunately many Alaskans are not choosing to get vaccinated and so our medical system is very stressed. We should not be afraid to go to the emergency room, but many of us are. | Yes, our US constitution guarantees liberty but not at the expense of another individual's right to life. We need to slow this virus down! There are very easy and effective ways to do this, vaccines, masks and hand washing.

Name: Keith Halsey

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 5:20:16 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: There is no need for a mask mandate in Anchorage. Everybody who wants to wear a mask is now currently wearing a mask. Proposing this mandate will only produce confrontations and I see very little of that right now the way things are. ||The previous mandates were an attack on my civil liberties and were a failure to our mental health, economy and social structure! |Please do not pass any mask mandates! That's why we elected this mayor and please stop stripping his powers away!!!!!!|

Name: Tim Silvers

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 5:30:42 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Anchorage Assembly, I'm writing in support of AO 2021-91. Mandating wearing of masks, in public settings where social distancing is not possible, is shown in numerous scientific studies to reduce the spread of Covid 19. The mask mandate should stay in effect as long as hospitals are overwhelmed. Once it's clear that hospitals can manage the patient load and no longer in crisis standards of care, the mandate can be relaxed. | The anti-mask crowd claims to ""follow the science"" but they don't do that at all. They cherry pick several obscure studies, especially ones early on in the pandemic, to support their weak position. How much of a burden is it really, to wear a mask to help protect your fellow Anchorage neighbors? Very little. Lots of whining and moaning over nothing and a huge display of selfishness. Thank you for standing up for the health and safety of all Anchorage (even those that don't want help) during this pandemic by passing this reasonable mask mandate. |Tim Silvers

Name: Peter Kropidlowski

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 6:19:46 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 mask mandates

Testimony: It's pretty simple really. All you need to do is google what the size of a typical virus is. Then google the size of particulate matter that a mask is capable of blocking. When you do this, you will find that a virus is ridiculously small and that masks cannot stop the spread of viruses. ||Think back to before the pandemic. The primary people wearing masks were always healthcare workers. However, they were only wearing them for hygiene purposes. They wore them to stop the potential spread of bacteria from them to their patients and vice versa. Know this: bacteria are bigger than viruses! Hence, masks can be effective if the objective in the use of them is to prevent bacterial spread and contamination. Also note, that the label on those boxes of paper masks state that they are not for the use of prevention of viruses.

Name: Rosanne Thornley

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 6:23:55 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: Please pass a mask mandate. We are in the biggest COVID surge and the hospitals are in trouble. Masks would help. |Thank you.

Name: charles spinelli

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 6:52:25 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L.

Testimony: Re: Covid Mask Mandates | I am categorically opposed to any mandate regarding masking. My wife is a cancer survivor we are both over 65 and we both have been vaccinated and had booster shots. We are essential workers so we have worked thru the lockdowns and other mandates. The vaccines have been available for about 9 months for our age group and it seems that today anyone who wants to be vaccinated can easily do so. Our Governor is featured in ads across the lower 48 inviting tourists to come to Ak. and receive a FREE Covid vaccine! Needless to say anyone who wants a vaccine can get one and anyone who wants to wear a mask can do so. | We keep our activities restricted to a close circle of friends and employees. We have several of our co-workers contract covid. Our co-workers know that Covid is dangerous and respect others by being aware of their health and when they are sick or exposed to mask up to stay away until their status is determined. | The science says a vaccines work and masks help protect oneself then why is the mask mandate needed? Those trying to push the mandate forward have the same opportunities for protections as we have enjoyed.....so why the push to mask? | There are therapeutics available to lessen the seriousness if one is aware and responsible for their health, People who can't take care of themselves deserve what they get! Freedom is a gift and the cost of freedom means that people need to be responsible for themselves the government has no business in this realm. | Anyone can choose to wear a mask if they choose! Chuck Spinelli

Name: Maria Raynes

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 7:06:01 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 2021-91

Testimony: I am in favor of a mask mandate. We live in a society where we are concerned and protect the welfare of ALL residents. It is why we have laws against DUI and smoking inside public buildings. It's not because we are trying to protect the drunk driver or the smoker. We are trying to protect others FROM them! Masks serve the same purpose. I don't wear a mask to protect myself. I wear a mask in protection of OTHERS! Why *anyone* would want to share in responsibility for those getting sick and dying from COVID because they refuse to wear a mask, is beyond me. I do not want to be responsible for anyone's death and I make my life decisions accordingly. History will not look favorably on politicians and others who have the power to reduce transmission and death and fail to do so. Please set political agendas aside and treat this as if you had a close friend or family member die from it. If you don't, you may live to regret it and I don't wish that on anyone. Thank you

Name: Loran Baxter

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 7:11:28 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Covid Mandate

Testimony: I am writing to oppose any mandates by the Anchorage Assembly to force mandatory masks or other requirements/restrictions such as mandatory vaccinations that would impact the freedom of Anchorage residents. || I would encourage you to review the Covid data on the website www.worldometers.info/coronavirus. I would encourage you to look at Florida and South Dakota, two states that have had the least restrictions. A couple months ago we heard that Florida would be a disaster because Governor DeSantis refused to implement covid restrictions. As you can see from the website, the number of Florida cases is approaching their lowest rate ever. || If you look at the Alaska cases, we may be peaking now and there is some indication case numbers are beginning to decrease, which is the pattern everywhere. Implementing draconian measures now will only further impact our struggling economy. || Thanks for your Consideration, || Loran Baxter ||

Name: Amanda Holland

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 9:01:45 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: As a Anchorage citizen of district 3, I would like to express that I oppose the mask mandate. When the mask mandate was in effect before, I started coughing often. I was tested for COVID and was negative multiple times. However, at 36 years old I was diagnosed with asthma. Never in my life have I had asthma till I had to start wearing a mask. When the mask mandate ended, the coughing went away. Then I went back to work in August (I was laid off for summer), I was required by my work to wear a mask. My cough came back. I had to start using my inhaler again. In September My kids and I got sick (all negative for COVID). I was out of work till I had zero symptoms so I missed two weeks. My cough went away. By the end of my first week back at work I was coughing again. Wearing a mask is not an appropriate choice for all people.

Name: Linda Porter

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 9:30:02 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: I support any ordinance towards the general public's health. In this case for the hwe'help in curbing the spread of COVID-19 or formally known as the corona virus. Helping our community stay healthy is a no brainer as they say. Why not let's leap in faith since everyone is not up to getting the vaccine. We need to help. A healthy community works together. A madk is a small directive. Get real folks, we are in this TOGETHER. No doubt. You help me, I help you.

Name: Barbara Reagle

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 10:31:57 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-90 and AO 2021-92.

Testimony: I am against any mandate or ordinance that requires masking, thank you.

Name: Nora Matell

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 6:06:29 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: I want to comment in support of the proposed mask ordinance. While we know masks are not 100% effective, we do know that they help reduce spread. Indoor mask wearing is a small thing that we can do for ourselves and our neighbors. It is much less invasive than trying to mandate personal behavior such as gathering size and allows our schools and businesses to remain open. As a teacher, I know that there is a constant revolving door of COVID in my classes, much more than parents are officially reporting to the district. Because of the mask mandate, schools have enough healthy staff to remain open. Even with masks, I feel my cumulative exposure is high. I have an infant son who is not able to be vaccinated or wear a mask yet. I haven't yet taken him into a public place. But other vulnerable people have no ability to just not go shopping for months. | People are dying. To some extent, that is their choice if they choose not to be vaccinated. But the reality is that we are all exposed, and through our vulnerable health system, we are exposed even if our problem was not COVID. | Masks do not harm people and they don't require people to submit to medication that they don't want. Yet they could lower our transmission rates enough to make it safer for us all.

Name: Randall Hagenstein

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 8:34:42 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Covid safety measures (AO 2021-91)

Testimony: Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on AO 2021-91 . || I strongly support implementing the safety measures to address the extraordinary level of current covid infections in Anchorage and Alaska. We are clearly in a crisis situation and there is a way out - implement science-based, proven mitigation measures as detailed in AO 2021-91. Please pass this ordinance. || Please recognize that I - and many many more like me - am reluctant to show up in person to testify in a crowded room full of loud, unmasked, unvaxxed people and expose myself to possible infection. || Please recognize that you are hearing in person from a loud minority that do not represent the large part of the Anchorage population who is choosing to stay home as a safety and health measure. || Please pass the covid safety measures so we can put this pandemic behind us, reduce risks to human health (for any and all Alaskans who need any kind of medical assistance), and get our economy back on track. || Thank you, |Randall Hagenstein| 1452 W 13th Ave., Anchorage

Name: Beth McLaughlin

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 8:35:51 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: mask ordinance

Testimony: Dear Assembly members, | I am writing in support of a municipal mask ordinance. I believe that it is the role of government to enforce behavior that safeguards the community as a whole. We have only a few tools to stop the spread of Covid-19 and masking has been shown to be one of them. Its really frightening and sad to walk into public places in our community and to see a large number of community members not masking and thus choosing to act in a way that threatens everyone else with potentially life threatening illness. | | I realize that the benefits of masking are well-known, so I won't belabor the point. However, I do want to say that the large numbers of people who believe the choice not to wear masks is a ""right"" actually prove the point that a mandate is needed. When people are so uniformed, ignorant, selfish, etc. that they see a simple protective measure as a threat, it means that government should step in. In my mind, it is not different from a seat belt law. | All the best, | Beth McLaughlin

Name: Meghan Johnson

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 8:36:32 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: Dear Assembly Members and Mayor Bronson, I'm writing this testimony vs attending the assembly meeting in person due to the large number of individuals who are attending the assembly meetings in person in the last few days who are unmasked in an enclosed area. I continue to live a life as normal as I can during the pandemic, but I value my own personal health and the health of my fellow community members. My employer still has us working from home for our personal safety, I wear a mask when I go to the grocery store, I'm not eating in restaurants but I do support them with take out orders, I limit my shopping to online and pick up when at all possible, and when I do need to go into a store I wear a mask. I work on behalf of young children and often when we tell someone no they do the thing we just told them they couldn't do. Unfortunately, it feels like individuals against the mask mandate are fighting being told they have to do something and perhaps for them it isn't about the mask mandate but just having restrictions placed on them is what is fueling their protest. I get it. No one likes to be told to do something. But guess what we live in a community where there are laws we have to follow that help keep us all safe. Many of the laws ""telling us what we can and shouldn't do"" pertain to actions that not only may be a harm to oneself, but to others. If this pandemic did not have such a strong devastating impact on every single human being on the planet I'd say fine don't get vaccinated or wear a mask. But this is not the case. The actions of individuals who choose not to wear a mask are putting their fellow citizens in harm and potentially killing them, just like individuals who get behind a car after drinking alcohol do for all the other individuals walking or driving near their path. I support the action that individual business can refuse to allow folks to not enter unless wearing a mask. I feel this gives choice for everyone. If you choose to enter you wear a mask. If you don't want to wear a mask you can not enter. We are fortunate to have lots of freedoms in the US, but when actions of individuals extend to increased risk of death to their fellow citizens I draw the line- PLEASE IMPLEMENT a COMMUNITY MASK REQUIREMENT WHEN IN PUBLIC. Thank you concerned citizen who mature enough to be told I can't or should do something - Meghan Johnson

Name: Sarah Stevens

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 8:54:51 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Assembly Special Meeting to consider Mask Mandate

Testimony: I am writing to ask the assembly respectfully to consider instituting a mask mandate in the Municipality of Anchorage. || Rates of COVID-19 transmission decreased during the time period that mask mandates were in effect in the city. This is clear evidence that in this situation, for this purpose, they are effective. || My husband and I are healthcare workers. Despite taking all reasonable precautions ourselves, we are at high risk for contracting the virus. That risk is increased when those around us, who might not be as cautious as we are, refuse to contain their germs while in the grocery store, in an office, or in crowded spaces. If we contracted COVID, we could unwittingly expose the medically fragile patients with whom we spend extensive time in enclosed spaces. || Please also consider this: Despite having two incomes and saving money as it is possible, a long battle with COVID would put us at risk for medical bankruptcy. A hospitalization would be economically devastating, even with health insurance, and the inability to perform our jobs would cause unbelievable financial hardship. (I actually left a well-paid job and took a 50% pay cut because the healthcare facility that employed me was not taking COVID precautions seriously and I had a preventable known exposure). It is wholly unacceptable for others to put my family at risk for medical bankruptcy when this could be easily and legally prevented. || In closing, I'd like to add that my family and I are currently traveling, touring universities that my child is interested in attending. We feel exponentially safer in the states and cities that we are visiting because everyone just wears the mask. We all dread returning to Alaska, as we feel vulnerable and powerless to avoid COVID-19 infection. || Thank you for considering my comments. | Respectfully, | Sarah R. Stevens, MPH, IBCLC-RLC | Anchorage, AK ||

Name: Jo Bennett

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 9:22:56 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: The Sept. 28, 2021 meeting, Item 14.L, AO 2021-91.

Testimony: Dear Assembly, | Anchorage hospitals are hurting. Testimony on a mask mandate has been going on for a week. Literally, Alaskans are dying. A mask mandate, is temporary. Please show consideration for all Alaskans and vote for a mandate. Please be responsible and vote sooner rather than later.. | Thank you.. | Jo Bennett

Name: Joel Hadley

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 9:23:19 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 09/28/2021, Item 14.L, AO 2021-91

Testimony: 09/28/2021, Item 14.L, AO 2021-91 | |The situation in Anchorage right now is untenable. We've got to get Covid under control. Since people are refusing to take a perfectly good vaccine, masking is the next best way to slow down the spread enough that our hospitals are no longer overwhelmed (and our economy doesn't collapse). | |Masks are proven safe to wear and effective at reducing the spread of Covid. A mask mandate is much less restrictive than business closures, and wearing a mask is much less restrictive on your personal liberty than dying of Covid. | |Mask mandates have already been effective in Anchorage at limiting the spread of Covid, because the people of Anchorage largely comply with them. | |Please pass the ordinance. |

Name: Frank Lahr

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 10:01:45 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am writing in support of passing the masking ordinance. The masks have been proven to work at stopping the transmission of Covid-19. Not all masks are equal but the more masking we can do as a community the sooner we will get back to 'normal'. If we keep debating about how certain masks don't do as good a job as other masks we'll never get the virus under control. We need to act now to stop the spread of the virus. This is a great step towards slowing the spread of the virus and it will give people uncertain about the vaccinations time to 'do more research' and then possibly get vaccinated, without our hospitals continuing to be too full of patients. Vaccination is a separate issue from this proposed ordinance but I believe it is the final solution. So, again, I support masking to give our community more time to get to that final solution. |When I enjoy the outdoors, whether hiking or biking or even just driving down a highway, I now have to keep in mind that an accidental injury to myself could not only take medical care away from someone else, but that I too could face lack of care at a crowded hospital. |Bringing hundreds of medical workers and new treatments for Covid-19 to Alaska is great but was it really necessary? Could this all have been avoided by simply wearing masks when indoors and keeping socially distanced? I think so. This is preventive 'medicine', and prevention is normally much less invasive and expensive than treating a serious disease! |Preventive medicine works, let's prevent further spread of the virus and get our society back to what we remember as normal. |Thank you Assembly members, in advance. |

Name: Kylee Smith

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 10:08:15 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: 14.L.2. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 611-2021 (masking in public to mitigate spread of covid-19)

Testimony: I am writing in support of our municipality requiring residents and patrons to mask when in public indoor settings. This is a safe and effective tool we can utilize with ease to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and keep our vulnerable populations safer during this global pandemic. I am about to have a baby and am terrified of when I need to put her in childcare so I can return to work. I am relying on the behavior of the other families in the childcare to keep mine safer from COVID. The public testimony has highlighted for me that I can not rely on my neighbors to take small actions to keep my child safe on their own. We need municipal intervention to protect her. Infant death from COVID is now a reality. I am a clinical social worker and spent much of last year doing grief therapy with children whose primary caregivers died from covid. Those deaths were all preventable once we had tools such as vaccinations and masks. | Additionally, a big Thank you to our assembly members who have shown professionalism during these last two weeks of testimony. It has been appalling but not shocking to see and hear Ms. Allard's continued inappropriate and obnoxious behavior during the meetings. I was horrified by her comparison on Monday where she equated the violence Ryan White experienced as a student with HIV to our anchorage teens needing to wear a mask during ski club. Shameful. Three cheers for our assembly chair and vice-chair for excellent facilitation of the meetings despite incessant unnecessary stalling from Bronson and Allard. | | This is an urgent public health issue and I BEG assembly member Allard to please stop stalling the meetings (and spewing offensive speech) so we can move on to debate and protect the residents and patrons of our fair city. | | Kylee Smith

Name: Susan Long

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 10:17:42 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: September 28, 2021

Agenda Item #: Sept 28,2021 meeting, Item 14, L, AO 2021-91

Testimony: I want to thank the assembly members (excluding Allard, and Kennedy) for withstanding hours and days of testimony on this subject. From what I was able to watch on you tube, the anti-maskers are coming out in droves to speak, and I wanted to make sure that you heard from someone who is for the mask mandate but not willing to attend the assembly meetings in person. I feel that wearing a mask is a very small inconvenience to saving lives, reducing the COVID numbers and helping the health care workers who are overwhelmed..and just my two cents, I don't feel that children under a certain age (18) should be allowed to testify. | | Thank you and please don't be swayed by the antimaskers!

Name: Jody Olsen

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 4:39:17 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 12, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: I am in favor of the mask mandate. Our hospitals and healthcare workers need all citizens to support their work by simply wearing masks. It is the least that responsible citizens should do.

|Sorry for the late response. I have been traveling. |Jody Olsen|2535 Glenwood St. |Anchorage, AK 99508 |jeolsen@hotmail.com

Name: Irina Obolentseva

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 4:47:39 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 12, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: We have right to wear mask, or not to wear mask. We have right to take vaccine or not to take vaccine. If your mask is working, why do you worry about mine? If your vaccine protects you, why do you worry about my vaccine? I don't think you are responsible for my health. Please, don't put responsibility for your health on me. Medical decision is personal, not public decision. | We've been watching this meeting online. It's obvious people don't want mask/vaccine mandates. If you work for people, as you pledge when being elected, you will listen to people. Please, don't say you know better what is better for us. I oppose any mask or vaccine mandates.

Name: Johnathon Green

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 4:52:45 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 12, 2021

Agenda Item #: Covid Mandates

Testimony: To all Assembly Members, | | What you read below has been sent to all, but when I tried to send my response to all of you, my three (3) attempts, in different ways but was blocked by GCI, your website or by other means. I do not know? | | John Weddleton has responded and you will read this below. But, even though I feel I have asked for is quite direct in my initial letter, I feel compelled to ask directly that all members need to address. | | This is your job to investigate every possible avenue to the benefit ""The People."" Pretty simple! | | I respectfully ask that you ""Please answer every and all questions in my testimony."" The People of Anchorage have the right to know, along with the world! Thank you! | | Dear Mayor Bronson & Assembly Members, | | First of all, I am not a doctor nor hold any degree in medicine, but I do not need this so-called degree / piece of paper to hang on the wall, in any field to understand, comprehend and disseminate facts. My mother was an RN, my father a paramedic and I have grown up in hospitals through the age of 16. My medical understand did not stop there because as my father put it one night, ""Son, you have always been the good kid, you were just the medical bill!"" We all laughed at the dinner table because it was true. | | Here is what I do not truly understand while doing my own research...Covid-19, SARS-CoV-2, SARS, H1 N2, H1N3, H1N5 (the worst), the Flu and Common Cold all belong to the same COVID Family. | | Please tell me how this PCR test can differentiate between each of these viruses? I have never heard nor seen ""anything"" in MSM nor even any other source? | | Kary Mullis, the inventor of the PCR Test, who won a Noble Prize for this has gone across this country giving lectures as to why his test does not work on virus! Do you know exactly what the PCR Test was designed for? Here is a quote from one of his lectures ""...doesn't tell you that you are sick. These test cannot detect free, infectious viruses at all."" His test was designed for putting back fragments of very small DNA samples from fossils, not active viruses. | | Has anyone one, across the world, secured an actual COVID-19 sample from someone's body to study? As far as I am concerned, through my own personal research, there has been no country / nation that actually has a sample from anyone. When countries like Ireland, for example, when the people pressed their government to prove they have secured a sample, they did not respond. But it took diligence by the people and the government finally caved in. They said that they do not have one, but only a ""digital replication"" of the virus. A ""DIGITAL REPLICATION?"" Really!? What do we have? Why don't we? I have not seen anything to this fact anywhere. | | Where did this so called ""Delta Variant"" come from? I have not come across its origin in my research. To me it is just a new term; made up. Where is the answer to this question? | | At work, I received a graph of the increase of COVID-19 cases in Alaska at work yesterday. It illustrated 1,225 per 100,000 people. This is basically 1.225% of the population of Alaska, based upon a population (rounding up) 700,000 people who live in this beautiful state. It still boils down to 1.225% of the population. So why are you locking down 98.775% of the population? And again, I refer back to paragraph 2, 3, and 4. | | Why is it that when so called ""new cases"" arise we are only told ""cases""? Why are we not given a true complete EXCEL spread sheet, in MSM, that is broken down to: Comorbidities, Age, Male / Female? No, we are given a graph to frighten us / keep us in fear. | | Why has our government and You ""NEVER"" told the people, in the beginning of all this, to take Vitamin A, B, C, D, Zinc...vitamins...to keep our immune system strong? By not doing this, our government and You have made SO MANY people suffer, die, lose their jobs, lose their business and livelihood, broken up families, forced people onto the streets and I can go on! | | Why has our government and You supported the blockage of the basic medicines that knock this out? Hydroxychloroquine works!

<https://www.americasfrontlinedoctors1.com/hydroxychloroquine/> | |What about Ivermectin? Yes, there is a version for horses / animals, but also for Humans that got a Noble Prize in 2015! Have you not seen this study? <https://c19ivermectin.com/> . If I found it, why can't you and other doctors? | |Have any of you looked at / researched the devastating reactions to this Non-Approved vaccine (Phizer's - not 100% approved even though we are told this). Comirnaty Approval, Funder Pressure, Truckies Blockade - New World Next Week . This info is right at the begging of this report. A vaccine takes anywhere from five to ten years to be ""Approved."" That is not what is happening with this vaccine! I am including a couple links to his website for your review. The most important aspect of his website is that whatever he talks about is 100% backup by links / documentation! MSM only tells us ""Experts Say, Doctors Say""...where is the proof of these so called professionals? | |Language is a weapon: <https://www.corbettreport.com/language-is-a-weapon/> But wait!!! That is what you are doing!!! The majority of you already know this and you know who you are! That is why you are doing what you are doing. <https://www.corbettreport.com/solutionswatch-vaccinemandates/> | |Now, if you really want / desire / know the true facts of what has happened around the world, take a look at the ""Death Report"" from around the world: <https://www.stopworldcontrol.com/report> | |If you do not do your ""Due Diligence"" to examine everything I have written, then you are simply killing people without a gun; only by language...just as deadly!!! | |Every question I has asked needs to be answered by You and our government. | |The last questions are: |1. Why have this government and You ""NOT"" tell us to improve our health through nutritional (organic foods) and vitamins? |2. Are you willing to have an open mind to look, listen, click on Corbett's Shownotes that will reinforce what he has said in his reports? |3. Are you willing to look at the links that can medically save people's lives rather than allow family members die? |4. Are you willing to pressure our local hospitals to get ""accurate breakdown deaths and how exactly the PCR test work and fails for so many people, along with how hospitals are reimbursed for the number of COVID-19 cases (they get Federal Monies for each case and the severity of each case? Hospitals get richer by the Tax Payer because of the laws in place depending on each case. I know you know this! |5. Are you willing to do this research with an open mind and without bias? |EVERY single question, and I have more, NEEDS to be answered and shared with not only Anchorage, Alaska, the USA (which I am Proud Of!), but the World! | |Are you willing to do the Right Thing!? | |Can you sleep at night while destroying 98.775% of our population and economy in Alaska? | |211002 @ 1410 Email from John Weddleton | |Johnathan, | |You cover a lot of ground here. | |Last year I voted against masking and business closures. Our medical capacity has been my biggest concern. We always had at least a little wiggle room in the hospitals. | |It is different now. The delta variant is clearly much worse than what we dealt with last year and we have hit the capacity of our hospitals. For the average person on the street, that might be a remote concern but for someone involved with governing, with a responsibility for the broad community health, it is a big deal. | |Should I ignore the obvious ravages of the pandemic? | |The medical community has been encouraging people to stay fit, to wash their hands, to avoid crowds and to wear masks for well over a year. The message to eat well and take vitamins has been out there all of my life. Despite that, cases have risen to a point where the hospitals are rationing their care. Persistent coaxing has not gotten enough of our community working together against this virus. | |The lightest thing that can be done is an indoors masking requirement with ample exemptions for people who don't like it. We all understand that a mask really won't protect us much. A mask is more about preventing us from spready the virus to others. It is not the solution. It is something that can decrease the spread at least a little and that's all we need to regain that margin in our hospitals. | |The Assembly can't dictate to the CDC or FDC what remedies are allowed. That is being worked through. There has been success with monoclonal antibodies that are approved. We have set up two clinics to provide that when it is available. | |You mention being locked down. Anchorage was never really locked down. The closest we got was March of 2020 for about 5 weeks when we were hopeful this would blow over quickly.

|Thanks for sharing your challenging ideas,| |John Weddleton|Anchorage Assembly|South Anchorage, Girdwood and Turnagain Arm|770-0685|John,| |Thanks for replying and I too would worry about medical capacity, but when all we hear is ""fear"" from MSM, people's minds are set in that mode. Any tiny bit of sniffle, runny nose, sneezing...is making people get tested and guess what? The PCR test indicates they have it and this test has created more False Positives than true results, therefore ""the number of cases goes up!"" Which is a lie and people are kept in ""Fear."" Fear is a very powerful tool. Language is a powerful tool and when repeated enough, people begin to believe. Hitler knew this and used it. Do you remember? |Have you heard of Parasite Stress Theory or Lock Step? If not: <https://www.thelastamericanvagabond.com/rise-authoritarianism-from-parasite-stress-theory-lockstep/> . Read and I hope that you see and understand who funded these studies as you read. Everyone needs to read this and have an ""Ah Ha"" moment. |In paragraph three (3) of your response, you brought up the Delta Variant. Well, you did not do a very good job as to answer my question at all which was, ""Where did it come from?"" All you did was say the same thing as MSM...the delta variant is worse...this is nothing new. If a new ""variant came out, then where did it come from? Very simple question. |The medical community is only telling us what all loving parents already know about when their children are sick or themselves. The medical community needs to start telling people about how each type of vitamins and herbs does for the human body and its immune system. Do you agree and support this type of information to be given to the people? |It is widely known, at least through every single person I talk to about this, that this is 99.6% curable. We all know that and yet again, this small (very small) group of individuals (Anchorage, the State and Country) is keeping 98.775% of us locked down. And I do mean Locked Down because no matter what, this masking (which does not work - Research Legionnaires Disease and learn what caused its spread) and any other measure beyond this is insanity! |I have always agreed that if you do not feel good, stay home until better. I'm Hip! I'm good with that! We have had this burned into our brains for that last two years and it continues Here is a personal story to get my point across to you and everyone in the assembly: when I met my beautiful wife, Christine, she asked me what makes me mad (and this is very true), my immediate response was, ""I don't like someone telling me how to do something that I already know how to do so well!"" Well, guess what; this is exactly what is happening here and globally. The current message needs to ""stop"" and a completely new message of health needs to be not only in the medical industry, but also the political industry (yes, you are an industry - globally). |Stop pushing a vaccine mandate that has not been fully studied!!! Stop pushing it into our children! |A current updated email that I got today clearly states this: ""250,000 Deaths In USA|Attorney Thomas Renz received information from a Medicare whistleblower that almost 50,000 people have died, according to their data. This number represents only 18,1% of the U.S. population, meaning that if we apply this to the entire American population... |±250,000 people have died from the shots, according to Medicare data. |What do you think the death rate is worldwide? See it in the Vaccine Death Report and share it everywhere! |I watched my beautiful wife die!!! Not from this BS, but from cancer. I know the pain and anguish everyone goes through when this happens!!! I cried for literally one (1) year. Just think about the consequences of every single family who has lost someone they loved because of these hideous lockdowns / mandates that this assembly and others have done to everyone here and across the globe! Let's not forget the millions of innocent civilians of war either!!! They too cried for a very long time! |You say and I quote you, ""The Assembly can't dictate to the CDC or FDC what remedies are allowed. That is being worked through. There has been success with monoclonal antibodies that are approved. We have set up two clinics to provide that when it is available."" Well, then why do you, the Assembly and our government does not tell us about the benefits of vitamins and herbs along with Hydroxychloroquine with Zinc or Ivermectin? These can save more lives than the vaccine. |I just do not understand where all of your heads are at!??? |STOP what you are doing and do the right thing! Give us accurate information (go deep and ask questions

that need to be answered with clarity), with back up facts (links to look at), stop being political and be a ""human with empathy and understanding for all"", once you have ""the right answers"" then tell us all and allow us to make up our own minds! Is this hard for you? | | I don't want the shot because it goes against my religion! Plus, once I grew up and became a logical, self-thinking individual, that understood all facts from research, I have never needed a flu shot at all. I am going on 26 years of not being sick. I take my vitamins every day! You have no clue on how many people I have been around in that period of time that were sick and I was absolutely fine. My immune system is completely intact! Why are you not presenting us with these types of facts that are verifiable? | | Here is a link to a nurse's story, behind the scenes in eight (8) different hospitals in four (4) different states. Listen to what she has to say: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4m8abbPITo> | | All of you in the ""Assembly Needs"" to look at, listen with an open mind to personal testimonies and related facts that I have included in this email and in my last one...If you do not, then in my book, you are not a human being! If you do and you cannot see the light and you vote to keep us herded in like cattle, rather than doing and reading the research I have done, well, those of you who continue to vote on these insane mandates / lock downs, need to be put in solitary confinement so you can ponder upon the crimes against humanity that you have caused to all of us! | | I hope you can sleep well! I Do Not! | | Johnathon Green

Name: Joe Spears

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 5:57:39 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 12, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: The vocal minority that gave public testimony in the last week are NOT representing my opinions, nor I believe the majority opinion of the Anchorage public. Most of us are trying to carry out our lives and are following the guidance of our public health officials. If any of the speakers are epidemiologists, I would weigh their opinions against those of the WHO, the CDC, etc. They are NOT epidemiologists. || There are uncountable circumstances where these people would agree with intervention. When kids go to school and are found to have lice, or pink eye, or any other highly contagious sickness, they are not given the choice of carrying on as usual. Instead, ACTION IS TAKEN. In the case of a pandemic (which we are in), the actions needed are PROACTIVE ACTIONS. Please listen to the advice of experts, and do not assume that when the vocal members of the minority are saying that they speak for me that they are. They are not. |

Name: Nicole Berhow

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 6:25:34 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 12, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: Assembly Members, || I believe there is a portion of the population that is not comfortable coming to testify or lend their voice to a meeting where so many people will be unmasked and likely unvaccinated. I want to say that we are out here. || I support reinstating a mask mandate for the municipality of Anchorage to support hospital workers and to reduce the spread of CoVid 19. I am an optometrist and we have required masks in our office since we reopened in mid-May of 2020. Having a mandate also helps support us with patients fighting with us about having to wear a mask. || Thank you, || Nicole L Berhow, OD

Name: Catherine Stewart

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 6:29:30 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 12, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: As a local business owner I fully support a mask mandate for the municipality of Anchorage. Numbers are very high and our medical workers need help in mitigating the spread of COVID.

Name: Sigrun Robertson

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 6:50:19 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 12, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021 91-L

Testimony: I fully support the Mask Mandate. We need to control this pandemic now, and stop the increase of people getting infected and dying from Covid-19. Vaccinations, distancing and wearing masks are the only scientifically proven methods to slow the virus down. We need to support all people who are have underlying issues, our medical professionals, our children, people working in public, such as grocery workers, and others who are putting themselves out there to ensure that we all can continue life to the greatest extent possible without risk. |Sincerely, |Sigrun Robertson | 1611 Ermine Street | Anchorage, Alaska 99504

Name: Rosa Meehan

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 7:39:29 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 12, 2021

Agenda Item #: Proposed Mask Mandate - AO 2021-91

Testimony: I support the proposed mask mandate. As a long-time Alaskan, I am astonished at the utter lack of leadership by our Mayor (and Governor) in addressing the continuing COVID 19 pandemic. The amount of misinformation repeated and amplified by individuals who should be leaders demonstrates a cynical facade of feigned concern for protecting liberty. The overwhelming evidence demonstrates the effectiveness of masks and social distancing in reducing the spread of COVID (key studies are those that compared transmission rates prior to implementation of such measures with transmission rates following mask mandates). Such measures are further supported by health care professionals - people who are on the literal front line in dealing with the ravages of this disease. The stress and near collapse of our medical response systems should be a klaxon call for significant organized preventative measures. Instead we are fed conspiracy theories wrapped in a false veneer of preserving liberty with a side of selective (aka ""cherry-picked"") facts/studies. Whose liberty is protected is protected when such attitudes result in the sickness and death of friends and colleagues? What kind of leader presents only information that supports their preconceived notions and prejudices? || While I am just as uncomfortable as the next person wearing a mask, I will wear one and support the implementation of a mandate as a proven method for slowing the spread and ultimately reducing the case load associated with the virus. The fact that our hospitals adopted crisis care standards with doctors having to make life and death decisions in choosing which patients receive care and who does not is a further incentive to follow recommendations made by professionals. || I am submitting my comments as written testimony due to the intimidation and threatening actions of a vocal minority. || I urge the Assembly to adopt the mask mandate (AO 2021-91)

Name: Dan Bergstrom

Date/Time Submitted: 10/4/2021 10:16:43 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 12, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: Mask mandate is necessary for public health. I can not believe the craziness going on about freedom to infect others. What happened to Alaskans and Anchorage. I am ready to move out of AK.

Name: Moira Ingle

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 12:04:45 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 12, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: My name is Moira Ingle and I'm a resident of Chugiak. I'm submitting testimony to express my strong support for the ""mask mandate"" bill. When the previous mask mandate was in place, Anchorage was able to keep COVID numbers down to a manageable level. With the advent of the more contagious Delta variant despite vaccination being available, consistent mask wearing is even more important to slow the spread of the disease. It's a small price to pay to keep our hospitals operating at something approaching normal. I urge you to follow the science, which indicates that masking does work to reduce the spread of the COVID virus. Even a cloth mask is better than no mask. Please vote to pass this ordinance.

Name: Margaret Krause

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 5:31:35 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 12, 2021

Agenda Item #: COVID mask mandate

Testimony: COVID is not about politics, your rights or mine, but a serious pandemic in our State and community. I stay home to protect myself and everyone else in Anchorage. Not everyone knows if they might have COVID, symptoms or not. Masks have been shown to be effective in slowing or stopping the spread. || I am in favor of vaccination and mask wearing. When others choose not to vaccinate and not to wear masks in public places, this infringes on my rights too. I don't like wearing a mask, but to protect others, I wear it. I can not grocery shop any more as I see multiple people NOT wearing a masks inside the stores. I can not go to eat in a restaurant as it is dangerous for myself and others without masks. I can not go to the mall and get an ice cream. When people choose NOT to wear a mask it infringes on my rights too. || If we would wear masks we could get this pandemic under control again (as we did initially with the mask mandate). Now Alaska is surging in COVID cases and our hospitals and medical workers are overwhelmed. Our neighbors, family and friends are dying in our community. It seems like a small thing to ask everyone to mask up to protect each other. It's not forever, just a short time of masking to get this pandemic under control. || Thank you for listening to my voice. || Margaret Krause

Name: James Papasodora

Date/Time Submitted: 10/5/2021 1:00:56 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 12, 2021

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Hello, my name is James, and my opinion does not matter. Neither does any of yours. Nobody from the public speaking out against this mask mandate is qualified to have an opinion. Most are hardly qualified to know what they should be scared about, let alone qualified to make decisions about a deadly pandemic. The actual experts, scientists, pathologists, immunologists, those are the people who have an opinion that matters. Subject matter experts. They say that masks and vaccines are what's going to stop this pandemic, and evidence backs them up. Everyone needs to set their egos aside and listen to the experts. This mask mandate is a step in the right direction, and I hope to see mandatory vaccination in the future as well.

Name: Mark Stevens

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 9:05:09 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 12, 2021

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: Please consider instituting a mask mandate quickly despite the very vocal minority flooding meetings with theatrics and political rhetoric. We are in crisis in the healthcare community, and bold leadership is needed here. Citizen lives are at stake. Thank you.

Name: Mike Sullivan

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 11:13:45 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Public Hearing on mask mandate..

Testimony: Greetings I'm commenting on behalf of 3 family members all long term residents of District 6. We're supporters of the mask ordinance and while we don't necessarily support masks for HS athletes or overly restrictive capacity numbers we do support common sense masking. We also would not object to a vaccination requirement for public venues and buildings. || The SA mob does not speak for us.

Name: Adrienne Duttle

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 11:18:45 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: I oppose the mask ordinance. | | If people must wear mask, by choice, I suggest providing the N95 masks, swimming goggles or similar, and education on how to properly don, wear and doff them. Paid for by the city and implemented as soon as possible in order to properly and effectively protect those who need it most. We've heard time and again that the way we're wearing masks, and the type of mask we're wearing is laughably ineffective and more harmful than helpful.

Name: Lyn Franks

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 11:20:43 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 14.L, AO2021-91

Testimony: |, Item 14.L, AO 2021-91. | |I am for the mask | |mandate. | |The repeated lies, | |of ""my body, my | |choice, is the very | |reason that we need | |this mandate as | |their choices not | |to mask are | |helping to keep the | |Covid virus going | |and | |causing deadly | |harm to | |to our health care | |systems. Please | |vote for the | |mandate. |

Name: Leilani Curry

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 11:31:49 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Sept. 28, 2021 meeting, Item 14.L, AO 2021-91.

Testimony: I support a mask mandate. I was just recently in the hospital emergency room for a second time (I was there last year for blood clots - out of my control) for the worst headache of my life caused by a sneeze. docs wanted to rule out possible bursting in the brain, but it did take 30 minutes or so for me to even go from the waiting room to the actual emergency rooms. then it took about 3 hours for me to slowly get seen. Turns out I needed emergency brain surgery due to the ventricles being swollen in my brain. And I was alone. the entire time. just like last year. it's HORRIBLE being alone and panicking because you don't know what's going on with your body. this is the 2nd time I've been alone and it is because covid cases have risen and visitors are not allowed due to spreading and no one caring about others. If a mask mandate was passed, the numbers would go down as we have previously seen from the science and numbers throughout the year. Please mandate masks so if I end up in the hospital again, I may not have to be alone (like many others). Prevent the spread of covid with this mask mandate. it'll help bring back some normalcy.

Name: Kate Vogel

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 11:53:16 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 14.L AO 2021-91

Testimony: Assembly members, | | I write to add my voice to the overwhelming chorus in favor of a mask mandate. | | We know they work to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We know we can live well with a mask mandate as we successfully adapted for nine months during the middle of our pandemic response. | | A mask mandate, and especially a resulting reduction in COVID levels, will make my family more willing to contribute to our local economy. And make us less terrified for any friends or family in need of hospital care. | | Regards, | | Kate Vogel | | P.s. Apologies if this is formatted weirdly. I am using the MOA online form submittal from my iPhone and the tool makes my text hard to read to my eyes. Hope it is better on your end.

Name: Christie Short

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 12:00:44 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Against Mask mandate

Testimony: I am unable to attend the assembly meeting as I am out of town. Below is my written statement. ||Assembly members, ||I write this to express how vehemently against the mask mandate I am. This goes against everything our constitution stands for: Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These are my unalienable rights and this mandate is 100% unconstitutional. ||If people are so scared they have the free will to mask up. Just like they should have the free will and choice to take the covid vaccine that doesn't stop you from getting it or prevent the spread of Covid. None of this is protecting our health. It is only harming our economy and turning friends against each other and creating divisions and enemies among each other. ||I have never been so disappointed in my life in most of our assembly members only doing what they want instead of for their constituents, or doing actual research and evidence that proves all of this wrong in many ways. I implore you to quit listening to ADN, KTUU and all the liberal news sources and do your actual research on what's going on and why. You will be creating problems that otherwise don't need to exist because of these baseless mandates. ||Do not approve the mask mandate. I will not comply. It is my constitutional right to choose. This is not about health. THIS IS NOT ABOUT HEALTH AND SAVING PEOPLE! If it was, our assembly and other government bodies would be pushing for things that do work, like better health, more monoclonal treatments, healthier foods, and not firing good people willing to work and creating more problems that don't need to exist, (and I could go on and on about better ways). The fact that you/assembly can't see this is asinine. I can't even fathom the ludicrous conclusions you are drawing here. ||Do not pass the mask mandate. ||Thank you, ||Christie Short|

Name: Ethan Tyler

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 12:22:31 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: I am writing in support of AO 2021-91. || My support of the 2021-91 is based on the massive surge in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in the municipality, the challenges that this has caused for our medical community, and the proven science behind masking and its effectiveness in limiting the spread of COVID-19. || Thank you || Ethan Tyler

Name: Tarryn Zerbinos

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 12:22:59 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am writing in support of the mask ordinance | | I have written in the past regarding this topic, however I mostly addressed the deplorable behavior of the attendees of the meetings also to denounce the mayor condoning the use of the star of david to which, he did apologize however, the damage is already done. | | On September 28th, Mayor Bronson stated he has constantly encouraged his community to get the vaccine as well as mask up. However, he does not wear a mask and refuses to get vaccinated. Mayor Bronson, how am I supposed to take your words seriously if you do not even follow your own advice? | | I have 2 children under 6 years old. One of them is in school and he wears a mask daily without a problem. My children are not fortunate enough to be vaccinated at this time because they are not qualified. I ask that you please pass this mandate to protect our children of the future and to ease the stress on the hospital staff that have worked tirelessly for 2 years now. | | With all that being said I ask that you please start voting on this issue. The longer we sit here, the more time takes away from other items that need to be taken care of by the assembly. I ask that Allard, Kennedy and Mayor Bronson please refrain from stalling the meeting by asking irrelevant questions, debating or badgering constituents who oppose your beliefs. I truly believe all the assembly members including the mayor care about the health and safety of Anchorage residents, it's time to save Anchorage, vote this simple mandate in to protect the city and the vulnerable next generation who is counting on you. | Thank you for your time. |

Name: susan riley

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 1:22:34 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: mask mandate

Testimony: I am a 44 year resident of anchorage/eagle river. Never have I been so horrified at the attitude and behavior of a very vocal selfish ignorant group of residents. Perhaps they have been encouraged to be loud and rude. Then there is the rest of the residents like me who would not attend an assembly hearing with all the unmasked crowd. That does not imply I don't have an opinion. I do! Please vote for a mask mandate to preserve our medical care facilities and prevent more covid deaths. Thank you.

Name: Eva Falke

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 1:24:54 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: September 28th testimony to support

Testimony: I support mask|Mandate. I have Mesical|Conditions that if infected, could lead to hospitalization. I am vaccinated, but not 100% immune like many. This is a socially responsible amd right thing to do to help curb the spread.

Name: Kerri Dowd

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 1:30:34 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 Mask Ordinance

Testimony: I am writing in favor of the proposed mask mandate. The Covid19 Pandemic is far from over and until people accept that fact & take measures to protect themselves and others none of us will feel safe. I am proudly vaccinated and wear a mask whenever I go anywhere. Why? Because unlike the ""independent thinkers"" who have been testifying - I am acutely aware that wearing a mask is a measure of protection for myself and others. || I have watched all of the Anchorage Assembly public testimony via tv because I do not feel it is safe to provide testimony in person. There is clearly little ability to socially distance and the people proudly not wearing masks are truly frightening. What has really stuck with me after watching and listening to my fellow Alaskans is how shockingly misinformed most of them are - including some of the Assembly members and Mayor. || I have attended Anchorage Assembly meetings in the past and was aware they can become divisive. The public is often angry and that has been very evident during the mask mandate testimony. What I was not prepared for was the divisive behavior on display coming from some of the Anchorage Assembly members, that has been truly disturbing. Watching in real time as some members actively attempt to undermine the meeting, lead the testimony, block others from speaking by asking ""clarifying"" questions of almost everyone not wearing a mask, dragging out debate with speakers, childishly challenge the chair and consistently disrupt the meeting has been aggravating to say the least. Obviously some of our elected officials have shown their bias by greeting many of the people who are testifying by first name, nodding their head and discussing previous emails, conversations. It feels like much of the testimony has been coordinated and assistance provided due to repetitive talking points and repeated phrases on the side of the ""will not comply"" crowd. | Some of the Anchorage Assembly Members and Mayor have displayed an appalling lack of understanding about Covid and I do not trust they have all Anchorage residents in mind as they actively attempt to subvert this necessary mandate. | Thank you for considering the safety of all of us. Wear a mask!

Name: Meg Mielke

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 1:30:51 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Item 14.L, AO 2021-91

Testimony: Dear assembly members, | | I am writing in firm support of the mask ordinance. | | I am a youth case manager for Cook Inlet Tribal Council (the beliefs expressed in this testimony are wholly my own and do not represent CITC.) I assist with hiring and supervising paid youth interns as well as work one-on-one with youth on their goals (focused on employment & training.) The youth that I work with all qualify as low income or have some other barrier to employment. | | The internship is often the first job experience for our interns. COVID-19 has negatively impacted my youth in so many ways. With the increased rise of spread in the community, our 400 person organization is now back to a hybrid work mode after a summer of primarily be in the office. This hybrid status is a direct consequence of the lack of municipal action. Our limited ability to provide transportation, in person supports, and home visits is hurting our youth. | | As of 09/30/2021, ARPA funds that previously allowed our interns to receive pay while they were out of work due to exposure/symptoms expired. I fear that with continued rise in the community, more interns will be forced to miss work and they will miss out on valuable experience as well s wages. This can cause them to seek out other harmful activities or at the very least decrease the amount of resources for their households. | | Please pass a mass mandate so that community transmission of this virus can decrease and so our interns can get back to work, and our service providers will be able to provide a heightened level of service. | | Thank you for your service, | | Meg Mielke

Name: Eric Olson

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 1:54:37 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Just writing to share my support for AO 2021-91. | My friend lost his mom from COVID-19. It's real, it's serious.

Name: Peter Barclay

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 2:13:16 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: There's no good way to say this, but here goes: | | We were around when the Assembly forced businesses that serve the public to force people to wear a mask, social distance, and sanitize like to the nth degree. | | This put an extreme burden on those employees and employers, harming their ability to make a living. | | This prior mandate did not stop the spread of the virus. | | The goal of 'flattening the curve' sure sounded commendable, but it's too late for that now. | | The Assembly cannot force people to get vaccinated any more than they can force inebriates to seek help. | | The mandate will again have long term negative effects on the local economy and on its people. | | MOA taxes will still be due, still be expected and still harm both renters and home owners. | | The proposed mandate will turn neighbor against neighbor (more than the virus and the fear of it has already done), and will harm tax-paying citizens and their children. | | Who it won't hurt are government employees. They haven't lost a paycheck yet.

Name: Kiana Peacock

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 2:30:54 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 14L, AO 2021-91

Testimony: I support the ordinance whole heartedly. I work for Alaska Airlines at the ticket counter. We are all required to wear a mask for our whole shift. We have been doing this for 8/10/16 hours a day for 20 months. No one has quit because of the masks and no one is on medical leave because of the masks and no one has a mask exemption for any medical or religious reasons. Please pass the ordinance so we can bring the numbers down and protect all of us but especially my unvaccinated children.

Name: Kevin McClear

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 2:33:01 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am in support of the mask mandate, AO 2021-91. | |Twice now, my daycare center has had to close for a week due to a COVID exposure. In addition to my unvaccinated child being potentially exposed to COVID, every family who uses that daycare has without daycare for a week at a time. | |We have data, both from the CDC and from our history of the last spike, to know that we can control the scope of the pandemic in Anchorage. | |Please pass this ordinance. | |Thank you for your time, |Kevin McClear, |Eagle River.

Name: John Hellen

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 2:41:45 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask ordinance

Testimony: Agenda item 4A. I support the proposed mask ordinance. Masks in public spaces are a minor inconvenience that are an effective part of an overall COVID-19 mitigation program. A municipal requirement will provide justification for businesses that are having a difficult time implementing and enforcing mask usage.

Name: Idamarie Piccard

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 3:03:47 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 2021-92

Testimony: As a resident of Anchorage for 45 years, I am writing in support of the temporary mask mandate for the city. In order to get the health crisis under control, it is one of the best options with the least amount of effort. Fact: wearing a mask will cut the cases by approximately 50%. |In closing it is the RIGHT THING TO DO to protect the health & safety of the citizens of Anchorage. Thank you |

Name: Elijah Haines

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 3:07:54 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Item 4A, Ordinance no. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am writing in support of Ordinance No. AO 2021-91. Wearing a mask is a common sense precaution that will save lives and help ease strain on our healthcare system. During this historic pandemic, it is a small, temporary ask for the community to wear a mask. Like wearing a seatbelt or not smoking in the grocery store, wearing a mask is a small sacrifice of personal liberty for the common good. Surely we are not so self-absorbed after seeing the pandemic play out that we think our decisions do not have huge impacts on others. I urge the assembly to adopt this Ordinance. | |Thank you,| |Elijah Haines|East Anchorage

Name: Helen Cortes

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 3:24:49 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91 (S), mask mandate

Testimony: Dear Assembly members, || I am writing in support of a municipal mask ordinance. || We have only a few tools to stop the spread of Covid-19 and masking has been shown to be one of them. While vaccination is the most effective tool we have at this time to curb COVID-19 hospitalizations and reduce symptomatic COVID-19 infections, the reality is much of Anchorage remains unvaccinated (children<12 included). Given the drastic impacts of the Delta variant on our community and hospitals, a mask mandate is one of the few tools left to help lower transmission rates, decrease the pressure on hospitals and increase everyone's safety when attending indoor public places. || I believe that it is the role of government to enforce behavior that safeguards the community as a whole. Just as we have passed laws to prohibit smoking in indoor/public places to protect the broader public from secondhand smoking, a mask mandate will help protect the broader public from COVID-19 infection and help ease the pressure on hospitals so crisis standards of care can be revoked. || Thank you for giving this testimony your time and consideration. || Very best, || Helen

Name: Irene Bortnick

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 3:28:34 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-90

Testimony: I am writing to express my support for AO 2021-90 to amend the Anchorage Municipal code to reflect what has been a long-standing practice and to give the Assembly Chair the authority to direct the setting of the Assembly Chambers at Z. J. Loussac Library for regular and special Assembly meetings. |Sincerely, |Irene Bortnick| Roger's Park Community Council member

Name: James Winchester

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 3:45:13 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: I am in full support of | | a mask mandate! I would come down in person to testify but am avoiding large crowds of unmasked angry people. Wearing a mask is the most effective way to lower Covid transmission. The sooner we can bring numbers down the sooner we can get back to business as normal. Please show leadership and vote to support a mask mandate that will save lives and protect children.

Name: Loren Rancourt

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 3:46:21 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am writing this in opposition to the well intentioned mask ordinance. It violates freedom of expression, a right well established in the constitution and Alaska Case law. | I worked as a Lead Safety monitor at the largest homeless shelter in the nation, Sullivan Arena, for over a year. | During that time, i have intervned on a number of priority calls, including: | * Rapes | * Sexual assaults | * Domestic Violence | * Sex trafficking | * Drug dealing | * Overdoses and medical emergencies. | | One such incident, i witnessed a woman voicing HELP ME with her mouth from the back seat of a car. She was slow, and silent in with fear and tears in her eyes. Me and a crew of safety professionals intervned and attempted to ask the woman and driver questions. There was an intense stand off in the parking lot. There were fears of weapons involved, and from a security stand point it was very risky (being unarmed). | The driver refused to let the woman out of the car, as she cried profusely. He eventually sped off. APD was able to make an arrest, and two were charged with kidnap and sex trafficking. | This is an Alaskan case, in the Alaska court system on record. Had that woman not been able to freely express distress, she faced grave, immediate danger. | Another incident, is when a man came into the sullivan as a new client. He was wanted for having allegedly just murdered two people in cold blood. There was a manhunt for him. Because he was able to wear a mask he slipped into the crowd of 400 people. The swat team eventually apprehended him at his bunk because staff was able to methodically check for the dangerous, wanted fugitive. | These masks pose a great threat to people expressing themselves in not only dire situations, but also in everyday interactions. My daughter went to school muzzled like a dog. She does not know what her classmates look like under those masks. She cannot freely express herself with smiles, frowns, or showing those cute dimples. The right to pursue happiness, includes the right to express it. | These violations create liability for the city. Long ago mathews v Eldridge established a test for balancing the risks to the loss of these rights, with the government interest and costs. A balancing test will be applied to this ordinance, and tax payers are going to foot the bill. | Why have no lawyers testified? Because they are the ones making profit from this ordinance. A fine imposed will create liability for companies who need to see faces of individuals for reasons above mentioned. | Thefts regularly occur in Anchorage. Emboldend by laws which require concealment of faces creates brazen acts once unheard of but in rare occassions. | People are raped in the woods, outside of the sullivan and in camps, by masked men. Imagine trying to console a woman who has just been raped, by men in masks, as you wear a mask. The trauma she just experienced is relived again. I have seen this at the sullivan, as medics try to get reports from hysterical women. I have experience in gathering testimony from an elderly male who was raped. By a masked group of deranged men. As i was wearing a mask, he voiced his trauma and asked me to take it off. | I complied so i could hear his testimony. In violation of company policy. Which i had already been written up for. I was told if a mask slipped below my nose again i would face reprimand or termination. I faced job loss or retraumatizing a raped male victim. | Who could not ID his attackers. There are numerous incident reports from the sullivan of crimes with unidentifiable perpetrators due to mask use. Masks were once a symbol of concealment and illgotten dealings. Now they are symbols of social justice without a real world view of what they historically are used for. | I contend the right to express oneself is more precious than a percieved interest in health ordinance. Had that woman who was allegedly kidnapped been muzzled, she would have a valid case against the muni for an ordinance violating her

right to ask for help in the only way she could. | | Sincerely, | Loren Rancourt | 5432 E Northern
Lights #405 | Anchorage AK 99508 | (907)268-7670 | |

Name: Alyssa Robinson

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 3:53:19 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Please support a mask mandate. We need to do something to reduce new infections and and keep our most vulnerable community members safe.

Name: Cathy Duxbury

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 4:32:57 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: I am against this. I live on hillside. I don't need assembly involved in my health. If you are afraid Stay Home

Name: Patrick Sullivan

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 4:40:31 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask ordinance

Testimony: Dear Anchorage Assembly, || I am writing in support of the proposed mask ordinance. I also want to assure you that the people who have been attending the Assembly meetings in opposition to the ordinance are not representative of the Anchorage community. Masking, vaccination and social distancing are the three most important tools that we have to control the spread of COVID-19 and protect our physical health and the health of our economy. Masking is not a violation of our liberty. It is a simple and easy way to protect our own health and the health of others. It is not fundamentally different than laws that prohibit smoking in public indoor spaces. No one should have the liberty to engage in behaviors that risk the health of others. Thank you for your support of the mask ordinance! | | Sincerely, | Patrick Sullivan

Name: Olga Aivano

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 4:59:57 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91 AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES FOR THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Testimony: In support of AO2021-91 AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES FOR THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. |Dear Madam Chair, |My name is Olga Aivano, and I am a resident of Eagle River, Alaska - District 14 (represented by J. Allard). |I am in full support of the AO2021-91 and feel strongly about it. The situation with Covid cases is absolutely out of control and requires public measures. |I do wear a mask in public spaces regardless of Covid statistics. And I am also fully vaccinated. However, I am aware that I can transmit the coronavirus and do not wish harm on others. The AO2021-91 will not affect me, but I believe it will help many members of our community and local businesses. |In the past year and a half, we stopped going out to eat or otherwise due to concerns over people neglecting basic CDC recommendations. It was not masking mandates that prevented us from going out and supporting local establishments. Rather opposite, seeing people without masks makes us avoid public spaces. Many of our friends follow the same principle. I believe that shops and restaurants can not enforce any anti-Covid measures due to fear of losing patronage. The mandate will help small businesses to avoid being targeted for requesting masking. |I have several friends who work at Providence and Regional Hospitals (nursing). Everybody says they are tired and demoralized by the current Covid spread in Alaska and the lack of restrictions / mandated public health measures. I have a close friend who works at Providence, doing resources planning - I do not know how she does it. She is exhausted and drained. We need to get our health care load to a manageable level. |We can not ignore that Health care overload affects people with non-Covid related health issues. Another close friend of mine was diagnosed with cancer end of May 2021. Chemo and radiation treatments practically destroyed his immune system. He also could not attend his dad's funeral in person due to concerns about being exposed to Covid. He required surgery to support his treatments; it took several days to get it scheduled with several delays before he got it done. It was very stressful and unfair. |The implementation of AO2021-91 will slow the spread of the virus; it will help our hospitals, support our frontline medical workers and help vulnerable members of our community. Therefore, I urge the Assembly to support AO2021-91. |Thank you for hearing my concerns. |With respect, |Olga Aivano

Name: Frances Yates-March

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 5:06:23 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Public Hearing on Mask Mandate

Testimony: My husband and I do not attend indoor events where people are unmasked, so we are providing written testimony. We are also concerned about going to events that have such vitriol. Our businesses are suffering due to the high numbers of COVID infections. We are concerned about passing this virus on to our young grandchildren, other family members with weakened immune systems, and ourselves. We are strongly urging a mask mandate. Since the last mandate has ended, our numbers of COVID infections have skyrocketed. Anchorage is in the national news because our percent of people with COVID is higher than any other place in our country. Without mitigation, these numbers will continue to wreck havoc on our community. Businesses will suffer, people will die, and hospitals will continue triage. ||I also urge you to listen to our experts in the medical field. I can't believe the disrespect shown to our medical workers. I can't believe people who know nothing about healthcare are pretending to understand and read the data so it fits their line of reasoning. I certainly wouldn't want someone untrained to fly an airplane with me in it.

Name: Erin Willahan

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 5:20:08 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am writing in support of AO 2021-91 and in support of all of the public health and safety measures proposed. Our community is hurting, people are dying, not just from COVID-19 but also because our hospitals have been overwhelmed by unvaccinated COVID-19 patients and forced to ration care. I urge you to rise above the cacophony of the hateful, misinformed minority that has been assaulting our public processes for weeks now, and pass this ordinance. The majority of people in Anchorage are behind doing what is best for our community and for ending this pandemic as soon as possible. The fate of our loved ones is in your hands.

Name: James Gamble

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 5:25:47 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: For Agenda item 4.A | I am strongly in favor of instituting a mask mandate in the Municipality of Anchorage. Requiring that masks be worn is a simple step to protect Anchorage residents from COVID. I urge members of the Assembly to pass a mask mandate. | Thank you.

Name: Laura Hilger

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 5:27:40 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Item 14.L, AO 2021-91

Testimony: Dear Anchorage Assembly members, | My name is Laura Hilger and I have lived in Alaska since 1995, Anchorage since 2003. I have been a resident in District 4 since 2006, and District 5 prior to that. I am an educator and a national consultant for school districts. | | I would like to thank all of the assembly members for your dedication and service to the Anchorage community. | | I would ask and encourage the assembly and the mayor to model leadership, respect, and integrity during these trying times because it does seem to be needed for our community. I would also like you to adhere to the rules and process of these hearings and to hold yourselves and each other accountable for doing so. I can't really tell via YouTube, but I would bet that there aren't very many youth in the audience and I wonder how young people being present would impact the behavior in the chambers. | | I do not condone the use of any hate symbolism or speech against any humans whatsoever. I also do not support my elected officials in condoning it in any way, shape, or form. The fact that hate symbolism was ever tolerated in the chambers is shameful. The fact that the hearings continued despite them wearing them is not ok. The ""intentions"" of the people wearing the yellow Star of David DOES NOT MATTER, and quite honestly, are inaccurate and misguided. As a white woman without Jewish heritage, if I were to ever wear the Star of David, my ""intention"" would be 100% moot. | | From Ta-Nehisi Coates' Between the World and Me: | ""It does not matter that the ""intentions"" of individual educators were noble. Forget about intentions. What any institution, or its agents, ""intend"" for you is secondary. Our world is physical. Learn to play defense- ignore the head and keep your eyes on the body. Very few Americans will directly proclaim that they are in favor of black people being left to the streets. But a very large number of Americans will do all they can to preserve the Dream. No one directly proclaimed that schools were designed to sanctify failure and destruction. But a great number of educators spoke of ""personal responsibility"" in a country authored and sustained by a criminal irresponsibility. The point of this language of ""intention"" and ""personal responsibility"" is broad exoneration. Mistakes were made. Bodies were broken. People were enslaved. We mean well. We tried our best. ""Good intention"" is a hall pass through history, a sleeping pill that ensures the Dream."" | | Wearing the Star of David is a perfect example of the lack of knowledge that people have when it comes to racism and inclusivity. The fact that other people were respectfully asking them not to wear them is enough. That should have been heard. You may not control what people do outside of the chambers, but you do control what takes place in them. And while it's true that you serve us and not the other way around, attending public hearings comes with rules and those should be adhered to and if people do not like them, they can submit testimony in many other ways. | | I think that you are trying and I know that you can do better. | | Regarding the mask mandate, what I really wanted was everyone to get vaccinated to avoid what is happening, but we have some that didn't want to. Ok. Then, the assembly tried to strongly encourage mask wearing, but that too isn't working. Now, we are back to a mask mandate. I feel like through either route, we could have avoided the situation that we are in, but there are several members of our community who are confusing personal freedom | | When you examine health history of the USA, vaccine mandates are not new, their effectiveness at treating what they were created for is not new, and protesting against them is also NOT NEW. There are many examples, but let's not forget the 70s, when concerned parents protested against the childhood immunization efforts- to this day, we are still paying the price for that, but let's not forget that vaccinations are required to attend public school. I wonder how many people in the chambers have students that attend public school? Do they call that an overreach as well? I wonder

what percentage of people against the vaccine also do not use the public school system? I wonder how that number changed as a result of the school board mask policy? I know that private school and home schooling numbers have increased. If they were against both, how come we have such a large public school system? Government overreach for some things is part of the game, and while we should protect our rights, efforts to avoid crisis modes exist for a reason. | People are allowed to choose not to get the vaccine, but that comes with consequences such as a mask mandate. They can argue about big pharma, the weird approval process, their lack of trust in the FDA, the CDC, and many other governmental acronyms, and sure, big government. I get that (even though we founded this country on wiping out entire cultures using government overreach), but if you didn't get the vaccine, which some considered a death sentence, you are now being given another route and that is to wear the mask, should it pass. It's not a death sentence and it is a simple act people can take, that has worked, to help the community. | Nothing great comes from focusing on just ME. Nothing great is done in isolation. We have to pull together, and sometimes, that means we make compromises. We put the WE before the ME. While it usually should be a yes/and and a both/and mentality, sometimes, we have to do what the community needs, even if it is something we wouldn't normally agree with or condone. The military is a perfect example of this. | I heard a woman testify the other night about all of this being a choice. I would agree. We have rights and we get to make choices, but when we are in a healthcare crisis, we have to lean on each other, and take action together for the betterment of society. This is why I got the shot and this is also why I now, again, support a temporary mask mandate. | We can be human-centered. We can think about the community at large. I support community action because what we are doing now is not enough. | Sincerely, | Ms. Laura Hilger |

Name: Danielle Sjoden

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 5:37:50 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am writing to express support for the mask mandate. The mayor's handling of the COVID situation is appalling - his lack of action and his disregard for the current science are worsening the situation. The mask mandate is more than a reasonable response to this crisis, it's a necessary step to protect the public, to keep children in school, and to help the business community. |I am a teacher and have worn an N95 to work for the past few months. It's a minor inconvenience in order to protect my children, who are too young to be vaccinated. I look forward to a time when I no longer have to wear a mask to work, and that time will come more quickly if individuals take the simple steps that have been proven to slow the spread of COVID. |Seeing the awful behavior you all have had to face in recent meetings saddens me, and I appreciate your willingness to listen and to think critically about this issue.

Name: Barbara Pepek

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 5:41:34 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Anchorage Mandatory Mask in Public

Testimony: I am in favor of reinstating the mask mandate. I have been vaccinated and following the protocol to the best of my ability. | I got a (mild) case of Covid from my husband. Who brought it home from work. Who was in contact with a business supplier. Who got it from his kid. Who got it from???

| PS: I am Jewish. Much of my Jewish family died in the worldwide 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic following WWI. | What was left of them died at Dachau Concentration Camp. | Several elected officials in our Municipality need to be charged and imprisoned for their crimes. | Barbara Pepek, North Star CC, Anchorage AK

Name: Christina Neal

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 5:42:21 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: Please vote in favor of this ordinance. Our community needs more aggressive public health measures to save lives and prevent long term suffering and economic impact. Listen to the health professionals. Those of us respecting their scientific assessment and fearful of catching the virus will not show up to testify!

Name: NANCY STONE

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 5:43:35 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: MASK MANDATE

Testimony: VOTE YES ON MASKING MANDATE. | |The tiring question, in a state/city of citizens who fail to understand responsible citizenship, is when do my freedoms end because someone else's freedoms are excessive. In the case of Covid, if someone refuses to follow recommended precautions such as social distancing, wearing a mask in public places and refusing to vaccinate, they have striped me of my freedoms. To protect myself from contracting the virus, I must be very selective on where I go in Anchorage. Is that really fair? | |Nancy Stone|Anchorage, AK.

Name: Bill O'Connell

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 5:43:47 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I fully support a mask mandate in the MOA.

Name: Lisa Sinnott

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 5:45:40 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 Regarding Covid health and safety measures (mask ordinance)

Testimony: I write with the utmost respect and appreciation for Assembly members who are seeking to protect the health of our community with this mask ordinance. I am just appalled and disappointed by the behavior to which you have been subjected. Please stand firm. You are right. Unfortunately, as a resident of Chugiak, I don't see that my own Assembly representatives are acting in the best interests of us all. Perhaps that will change. || As an older resident I find myself increasingly uncomfortable shopping and, really, going anywhere in Anchorage (including Assembly meetings). I can assure you, and any business persons who are concerned that requiring masks will hurt business, that a mask ordinance will increase the amount of dollars I spend locally. In one example, my husband and I renewed our membership at The Alaska Club after we were vaccinated and while the previous mask ordinance was in effect. We felt pretty safe there and enjoyed a few weeks of working out. But as soon as the mask ordinance ended and the club stopped requiring masks, we quit going and have since ended our membership. Likewise, we avoid other businesses where large numbers of people congregate without masks. || I am also a grandmother of three local school kids under age 12. Thank goodness the Anchorage School District is requiring masks during the school day. Still, our grand girls' activities are limited by the number of places where masks are not worn--for example, no dance lessons this year. || You are hearing lots of ""facts"" from people who are irrational and misinformed about masking and vaccinations. Thank you for continuing to seek real information from medical professionals and seeking to protect us all. || I am strongly in favor of the mask ordinance.

Name: Rachael Posey

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 6:22:59 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: I am writing to express my strong support of a municipal mask mandate. Alaska, and specifically Anchorage, is seeing extensive community spread of covid-19. Our healthcare system is at a breaking point, and we all need to come together and do everything we can to reduce the number of covid cases in our community. Wearing a mask is a minor inconvenience and something we should all be willing to do for the good of the community.

Name: Charisse Arce

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 6:38:20 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: I am an Anchorage resident and parent of two who are both under the age of 5. I implore the Assembly to pass this ordinance to protect all citizens, especially those who are vulnerable and/or unable to be vaccinated.

Name: Eleanor Wrenn

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 6:43:04 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: To the Anchorage Assembly, |My name is Ella Wrenn and I live in Assembly District 3. I'm writing to express my support for AO No. 2021-91. I've been watching all of the Assembly meetings online and am greatly concerned that the oral testimony presented in those meetings may be misrepresenting the broader voices of the public. It is inherent in the mandate that supporters would tend to avoid a public space where masks are not mandated while those opposed would not. I hope that each of you will consider that as you are listening to the voices each night. | |In regards to my support for AO no. 2021-91, this is a simple public health measure that should be enacted as soon as possible. The scientific evidence and support for this is overwhelming (despite what some testimony may claim). I am not an epidemiologist nor am I virologist, so I will refrain from making claims I am unqualified to do. I encourage each of you to turn to those experts when making decisions based on public health and not what laypersons claim. I strongly believe that public health measures should be enacted based solely on science to protect the health of the community. However, it's clear from questions and statements from assembly members and from the general public that I am in the minority on that, so I will address my personal experience and viewpoints as well. It is undeniable that this pandemic has affected us all. I'm heartbroken as some of the stories people have shared in opposition to this mandate. However, I can't help but observe that these horrible experiences are not the result of government responses and mandates but should actually be attributed to the pandemic as a whole. Our community's children are not suffering over the need to put a mask over their mouths, they're suffering because we're in a pandemic. | |There's been a lot of talk over the past few days about the enforceability of this measure. I understand some of you may be reluctant to enact something that you don't feel you will be able to enforce. While there may be little ability to actually enforce this ordinance, it's clear from the past year that it will still help. I found it striking that, when the last mask mandate was lifted this spring, the change in public behavior was immediate and notable. I was initially dismayed to suddenly see so many people around town not wearing masks indoors; at the time I didn't feel comfortable being unmasked indoors around strangers. I quickly realized, however, that this change just demonstrated how many people were absolutely fine to just follow the rules. The rules said to wear a mask, so they did, and when the rules no longer said to wear a mask, they didn't. While there were certainly instances of strife in regards to the mask mandate over the year; for the overwhelming majority of people, the rules were just followed - and I fully expect that to happen again. | |Enacting a mask mandate also relieves business owners and employees of the burden of having to make a political stance when they're simply wanting to operate their business. Unfortunately, as we all know, mask wearing has become incredibly politicized. It's hard enough operating a business during this pandemic; now every business in Anchorage is forced to decide if they want to make a political stand and have their employees enforce a mask mandate with no government backing or risk exposing their employees and customers to the virus (and contribute to spread). A mask ordinance allows the minimum wage employee to tell a non-mask-wearing customer 'it's the law' instead 'it's our policy', and that backing cannot be understated. | |While we've spent the past week hearing from people complaining that they will refuse to enter a store that requires them to wear a mask, please consider those of us who currently do not feel safe entering stores. I used to spend my disposable income within my community. Now, I don't feel safe being indoors around people if they are not wearing a mask. Before I got vaccinated, I did not step foot inside a single store unless I knew they had strict visitor limits and were enforcing proper maskage. I

used grocery pickup and curbside ordering for restaurants and minimized my shopping. When I got vaccinated, I resumed local shopping and started eating out again. Unfortunately, due to the government's failure to respond to the delta variant, I no longer feel comfortable entering indoor public areas anymore, so I'm back to ordering things online and staying away from our local businesses. I'm a bit of a spreadsheet nerd, so I actually calculated the differences in my own expenditures between these last 17 months of COVID (Apr 2020 - Aug 2021) compared to the prior 17-month period (Oct 2018 - Feb 2020). I'm a single adult with no dependents (although I did buy takeout for my parents nearly every week over the winter in an attempt to support our local restaurants) and I spent less than half of my pre-pandemic Food/Shopping costs (groceries, restaurants, bars, and personal supplies/clothes). I spent just 2.5% of my pre-pandemic Entertainment costs (movies, concerts, in-state travel, sports). The difference in spending over these two 17-month periods for just those two categories of costs was over \$12,000. That's \$12,000 that was not spent at local restaurants, bars, and stores, by just one sole Anchorage resident. While my savings account and retirement accounts may appreciate this, I'm sure local businesses don't! Pass this ordinance and not only will I and others like me be able to hope to have some sort of normalcy again, but the businesses in our community may start to recover from our willingness to patronize them again. I live alone. This past winter, I worked from home during the week and I spent my weekends at my parent's house in Peters Creek. I'm in my early 30s. Before the pandemic, I would order out for lunch from a local restaurant to eat at the office nearly every single day. I met friends for trivia at a bar/restaurant every week. I ate out with my friends, I went to movies, plays, and concerts, I played in adult sports leagues, and attended lectures and other events at local venues. I don't feel safe doing any of those things any more. I want this pandemic to be over. I want to be able to go to places in my community without fear that my neighbors may be unwittingly spreading this virus. A mask ordinance is a simple measure that will bring us a small step toward controlling this virus. I beg you to vote yes for this ordinance. Lastly, I want to address the behavior of certain members of Anchorage's Government, including some sitting on the Assembly. I am disgusted by the blatant collusion on the parts of Assemblywoman Allard and Mayor Bronson's administration to filibuster this ordinance and delay the political process. The current process requires the Assembly to hear all oral testimony; however this has been repeatedly delayed by dilatory parliamentary behavior and obvious stonewalling of attempts to schedule additional meetings. This is an incredibly time-sensitive issue and every day more people are reported hospitalized and pronounced dead of this virus. This is not a time to play politics. I thank Assembly Chair LaFrance for her attempts to retain control of these meetings and I also thank the various assembly members who have spoken up to call out this behavior. Thank you, Ella Wrenn

Name: Steven Aufrecht

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 6:49:35 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate Ordinance No. AO 2021-91,

Testimony: Although I'm fully vaccinated and wear a mask, I'm testifying in writing because I do not want to be in a room with many belligerent unmasked people. The mob that has harassed assembly members and testifying doctors is testing their ability to get away with such outrageous behavior. Just like the invasion of the Michigan State House was practice for January 6. If they were people of color, I believe what has happened would have been stopped the first night. ||But my testimony is about AO 2021-91, the mask mandate. ||There is a killer loose in Alaska. It's a virus. It's rapidly killing Alaskans at an alarming rate. The last day that there were zero deaths reported was September 16. Since that day, 111 deaths have been reported. || Imagine if there had been 111 homicides in the last three weeks. (Annual homicide rate in Alaska is around 37). Or fatal auto crashes. (Annual average about 64) Or fatal bear attacks.(Less than one per year) The same people who are ranting and raving at assembly meetings about the terrible hardship of wearing a mask, would be screaming at you to stop the killers. ||Our state and municipal government would be declaring an emergency and enacting all sorts of measures to stop the slaughter. ||But our governor is ""on top of things."" Our mayor says he doesn't know what else he can do. (Some of the deaths reported occurred earlier, but the state only got the info caught up. But then deaths that are occurring now aren't showing up yet either.) ||I believe both the governor and the mayor, because of the offices they hold, have a responsibility to prevent any such rampage in Alaska and Anchorage - whether by virus, human murderers, drivers, or bears. Because they have not taken serious steps to stop the deaths, and because they have actually questioned the medical experts advice to get vaccinated and to wear masks, I believe they should be charged with being accessories to murder. They are no different from those who encourage someone to commit a murder or the getaway driver. They're actions and inactions are responsible for many of the 564 Alaskans who have died of COVID. ||Therefore, I strongly support this ordinance requiring masks until the Test Positivity rate is back down to 2.0 (It's at an all time high today of 9.97!)||Thank you. You shouldn't have to put up with the abuse you've been taking on this. I urge you to establish rules of decorum which allow you to eject people who flout those rules.

Name: Ben Craig

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 6:54:43 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 4A

Testimony: We absolutely need a mask mandate. We also need a vaccine mandate. This is science, not politics. There really isn't more that needs to be said.

Name: Claire Kaufman

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 7:14:01 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 4A. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I fully support AO 2021-91 to help prevent the spread of COVID 19. Wearing a mask is a minor inconvenience. It is a simple thing each of us can do and mask wearing has been proven to reduce community transmission of COVID 19.

Name: Nicholas Carmon

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 7:19:46 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am an Anchorage citizen currently living out of state in Japan, but even I felt the need to write in and testify in support of the mask mandate. | | Here in Japan, people wear masks as a matter of course in order to protect themselves and others from illness. I don't see why people in Anchorage can't extend the same courtesy to their neighbors as we work to beat this pandemic.

Name: Heather Brock

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 7:21:30 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO-2021-91 regarding public health and safety measures related to COVID-19

Testimony: Dear Chairman LaFrance and Members of the Anchorage Assembly, | I thank you for supporting public health and Alaska's hospital system with the proposed mask mandate. | I work with inpatients at Providence Alaska Medical Center. The lack of mitigating strategies to address COVID-19 has, as you know, significantly impacted our ability to provide the fullest possible care to the community. Until we have widespread community vaccination, masks and social distancing are the most effective tools available to reduce illness and death secondary to SARS-CoV-2. Mask mandates have assisted in controlling outbreaks in multiple situations now. | The primary objections I've heard to masks include: | - they cause discomfort | - they are ineffective | - they are seen as an offense to personal liberty | - they impair social interaction for either children or adults | - requiring them is a burden on businesses | - some people will not go out and spend money in the community due to the hardship of wearing a mask | Discomfort: | I can't speak to the experience of others. I've been wearing a mask or N95 all day every day at both the hospital and in my private practice for about 18 months now. I've been wearing masks or respirators in the community to shop. I've attended heated vinyasa yoga for 90 minute classes in a mask or N95 multiple times. The sweaty mask was noticeable at times but caused no impairment. It's regrettable that intense emotion around the use of masks may be contributing to distress while wearing them. I often find shoes uncomfortable, but I am required to wear them at work and when entering businesses. Many people tolerate balaclavas for cold weather activities despite transient discomfort. | Efficacy: | Masks reduce transmission of COVID-19, which is now recognized as airborne. Properly fitted respirators are even more effective. | Liberty: | Personal liberty does not include the freedom to harm others. Living in a community comes with responsibilities to the community. In a situation involving widespread airborne communicable disease, restrictions in the service of reducing death, illness, and long term effects of the illness are appropriate. A mask mandate allows all members of the community, including those who can not be vaccinated due to their young age, to participate in activities with a reduced risk of contracting COVID. Unvaccinated and unmasked community members place others at risk. | Impaired social interaction: | Again, my experience has been different. I routinely evaluate patients for the first time while wearing a mask or respirator, and continue to develop rapport without difficulty. I have seen colleagues, inpatients, and outpatients on an ongoing basis while both wearing a mask or respirator, and we have had clear understanding of each other's communication and emotional state. It has been difficult, however, to communicate effectively with severely hypoxemic patients who have COVID-19, both due to their cognitive situation and the sound of high flow oxygen. | Burden on business: | Businesses don't have to provide masks, but it seems practical to have them available so that people can conduct business. This would be the choice of the business. | I agree that the people asked to intercept and address the maskless are placed in a difficult position. Having a mask mandate provides additional support for these employees, and increases the odds that customers will enter masked in the first place. | The burden of absent employees due to COVID-19 should also be considered. Universal masking allows for a safer work environment for staff. | Concern for decreased commerce related to the requirement to wear masks: | Mask mandates are associated with increased time out of the house. The majority of people in the community are requesting a mask mandate. Most people feel more comfortable with a mask requirement. These things suggest that people are more likely to go out and spend money if universal masking is required. | <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-021-82574->

w|<https://www.clevelandfed.org/newsroom-and-events/publications/economic-commentary/2020-economic-commentaries/ec-202020-survey-results-on-mask-wearing-behaviors-and-beliefs.aspx>| I shop in both Anchorage and Wasilla, depending on where I work that day. During the prior mask mandate, I intentionally shifted all of my shopping to Anchorage/Eagle River, and I'd be delighted to do this again if universal masking was required. | I encourage you to vote to support a mask mandate. | Respectfully, | Heather Brock, RN ARNP |

Name: Castilleja Kuzis

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 7:27:51 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: mask mandate

Testimony: please approve the mandate you turkeys

Name: Larry Daniels

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 7:44:50 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: I support the life saving mask mandate | |Girdwood, AK.

Name: Marianne Daniels

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 7:50:21 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I am 100% in favor of a mask ordinance for everyone indoor and outdoor

Name: Eve Witten

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 8:17:56 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: mask mandate 4.A. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91, an ordinance of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly regarding public health and safety measures for the COVID-19 pandemic, Assembly Members Zaletel and Petersen. 4.A.1. Ordinance No. AO 2

Testimony: Thank you for taking written testimony on AO 2021-91 . I am writing to ask that you please pass this ordinance. I am choosing not to attend in person because I do not wish to sit in a crowded room with a vocal, unmasked, un-vaccinated minority. ||My family and I strongly support implementing recommended safety measures to address covid 19 infections in Anchorage and Alaska. The current outbreak is unprecedented leading to a crisis situation in our urban and rural hospitals. It's a crisis for those needing care for a covid infection, and tragically, for those needing any other care. We DO have a proven solution: Follow and implement science-based, proven mitigation measures as detailed in AO 2021-91. ||Please enact this basic public safety measure. The evidence from other cities is clear; we can keep citizens healthy and get our economy back on track. ||Thank you,||Eve Witten

Name: Kyla Forbes

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 8:41:54 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I would like to submit written testimony in support of AO 2021-91. I am a lifelong Anchorage resident currently living in Taku Campbell and I have an unvaccinated 2 year old. I wear a mask now I am out in the community and strongly feel all of our residents should do so for their own protection and the protection of our front-line workers and vulnerable population, including children.

Name: Amy Lundell

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 8:49:13 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Sept. 28, 2021 meeting, Item 14.L, AO 2021-91

Testimony: We would like to indicate our support for the proposed mask mandate. We do not feel safe in our assembly chambers to testify in person, so are sending this email. |It is scientifically proven that double layer masks over mouth and nose reduce transmission of the covid virus. |Our hospitals are overrun and we would like to know that we can get full unrationed care there for any illness or accident. A mask mandate will reduce the spread of the virus and give our health care providers some relief. |Hospitalizations and health care for covid is extremely expensive. This will raise group insurance health rates for employers, employees, and city and state government. Costing all of us. |Children deserve their education and the 5-11 year olds can not get vaccinated as of yet. A mask mandate will reduce the transmission rate in the city and therefore in the classrooms. (And we all pay for that education, so it behooves us all to make sure those kids can be in class.) |We know our fellow Anchorage citizens. They do for others. They can do this. It is the right thing to do. |The bullies and yahoos testifying in the chambers do not represent the majority. | |Amy and Bob Lundell |Vassar Dr. Midtown. |

Name: Madeleine Grant

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 9:22:10 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Please pass the mask mandate. I'm a doctor, the science is clear & the testing & hospital systems are overwhelmed. |Thank you.

Name: ROBIN NINEFELDT, MD

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 10:21:47 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-19

Testimony: While I offered testimony Sept 28, 2021, my message was geared toward behaving in a civil manner and trusting medical doctors' expertise. I simply want to make clear my support for masking, understanding finer points of the measure need to be addressed. Thank you so very much for your endurance.

Name: Elizabeth Hazen

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 10:29:19 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Regarding AO 2021-91; Memoranda #AM611-2021 on Public Health Safety. | Due to the current large increase in Covid-19 cases, and the lack of space and staffing at the hospitals, I am in favor of mandating the use of masks, and possibly social distancing. I believe instituting these measures will greatly reduce the number of Covid-19 cases, and will protect those persons who are not eligible to receive the Covid vaccine. It will also allow doctors and hospitals to better care for those who need their services, whether they have Covid or another medical issue. These mandates will protect people, and will also help the economy by allowing people to work and for businesses to remain open for business. | Thank you for considering my opinion. | Elizabeth A. Hazen, Anchorage resident for over 42 years.

Name: Anna Wen

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 10:30:20 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 4.A.

Testimony: As a student at UAA, I am proud that they have mandated masks and it has shown to be positive for preventing the spread of covid on campus. I would also like our assembly to make the right decision that would reduce pandemic stress off of our hospital workers. Please consider a mask mandate to slow the spread of covid in Anchorage. || Thank you

Name: Paul Morrison

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 10:45:13 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate

Testimony: I am in support of the mask mandate ordinance. I have not wanted to expose myself to the crowds and unmasked and possibly unvaccinated participants at the meeting and thank you for allowing me to provide this written testimony.

Name: Kaela Hartman

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 10:47:26 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: Our hospitals are full. Masks work. Throw our first responders a bone and approve the mandate. ||K. Thanks.

Name: alex gould

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 10:58:15 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-90

Testimony: Stop attempting to trample the freedom of Anchorage citizens. The members of this body have not heeded the will of those that elected them, that needs to change. | |As humans, we all deserve the freedom to make our own decisions, especially with our health and well-being. Masks do have their place, like keeping a surgeons spittle from entering an open cavity. However, for this virus, they are just a placebo. The particles are too fine to be effectively filtered, the masks don't properly seal against the skin, and they also trap all the bodily fluid expelled from your body, giving bacterias a nice warm place to habitate. | |This body is over-stepping it's bounds to even be considering an order such as this. | |Thats all I have for today. | |Thanks|Alex| | |P.S. | Stop acting like a bunch of small children on a playground. Stop being petty, treat each other with respect, and show much more professionalism.

Name: Tony Batres

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 11:19:05 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Sept. 28, can 2021 meeting, Item 14.L, AO 2021-91

Testimony: Hello, | |As a husband, father, and grandfather, I want to make it abundantly clear that I 100% support the mask mandate proposition. |Those who complain that their rights are being infringed upon, or that the choice is theirs, simply do not understand logical, critical thinking. |Your individual rights end when your personal choices affect the health of those around you. |It is as simple as that. Your choice to not wear a scientifically proven preventative measure brings the risk of exposure to those I hold dear. |Therefore, you do not have the rights to which you erroneously believe you are entitled. |Thank you for your time.

Name: Fay Romer

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 11:22:59 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: Masks do not stop covid. I have heat induced asthma and cannot wear a mask for more than a few minutes. Then I get heart palpitations. Stop forcing people to breath unhealthy air!!!!

Name: Jennifer Gordon

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 11:34:17 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 Mask Mandate

Testimony: Masks protect people from not only Covid-19 but all airborne viruses like the flu. For the sake of our entire community, we need to agree to take this simple step toward making our state a safe place to be for all citizens - including those who are immunocompromised, elderly, or have other reasons that they are more fragile and for whom getting sick can be devastating or even deadly. || Many Individual businesses have already put this mandate in place, it is time our representatives and our local government support the small businesses and follow the science and make masks mandatory under the guidelines that are described in this agenda item. || Thank you, | Jennifer Gordon

Name: Joel Potter

Date/Time Submitted: 10/6/2021 11:36:31 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: My name is Joel Potter. I am an associate professor of philosophy at the University of Alaska Anchorage. My family and I live in Nunaka Valley in District 5. I am writing in support of OA 2021-91. | | In a recent opinion piece in the ADN, I explained my reasons for supporting this measure and for considering Mayor Bronson's opposition to the mandate to rest on a defective understanding of freedom. | | ""Why a mask mandate would help safeguard liberty"" | Alaska Daily News, October 6, 2021 | | In a recent opinion piece in the ADN, Mayor Bronson writes, ""I am not against masking; I am simply pro-liberty."" By opposing a mask mandate, he claims he is trying to make Anchorage ""a sanctuary for freedom and a refuge for liberty again."" | | The problem with this idea is that being truly pro-liberty requires implementing restrictions like the mask mandate. | | Being alive and healthy are prerequisites to living freely: the gravely ill have diminished freedom and the dead, no freedom at all. Because of this I cannot exercise my freedom at the expense of the health and welfare of others and claim to stand for freedom. | | The current surge in the Delta variant not only threatens the lives and health of the people of the city of Anchorage. The unchecked spread of the virus also significantly limits the freedom of citizens to assemble and meet together without risking infection to themselves and their loved ones. In one way or another, whether at work or school or elsewhere, the rapid spread of the virus in our community limits the freedom of everyone. | | Mayor Bronson acknowledges that many studies show that masking helps to reduce the spread of the virus, while citing only three sources that he believes provide counterevidence. More importantly, it is the consensus of our state medical experts, health care organizations and professional medical bodies that masking inside (and getting vaccinated) will help to reduce the spread and deadly health outcomes of the virus. | | Given this weight of evidence, if Mayor Bronson considers it his duty to protect the freedom of the citizens of Anchorage, then it is his duty to implement a mask mandate and other restrictions that will help to keep us alive, healthy, and free. | | In Anchorage, we are not free to pour motor oil down storm drains. We are not free to enter restaurants unclothed. We are not free to defecate in public. We are not free to steal from our local grocery store. We accept these restrictions on our freedom with little fuss. We do this because we understand that these restrictions guard against bad public health outcomes, a degraded environment, and increased societal instability, all of which make us less free. | | Freedom isn't free: some limits on individual freedom are the price of greater freedom for everyone. And freedom isn't all people care about. We want to be free so we can pursue lives of meaning and purpose, and part of the purpose and fulfillment of human existence involves sharing in life together and caring for each other. In a democratic society, one way we do this is to pass laws that help us achieve these goals. City ordinances help us to effectively coordinate our activities so as to protect the vulnerable in our community and care for our neighbors. Doing these things together for each other is part of what it means to live well. | | As churches, school districts, and other associations rely on their elected boards to vote on policies that benefit their members, the people of Anchorage-through their elected representatives at the municipal assembly-may act collectively to protect the freedom and wellbeing of their neighbors, families, and friends by implementing a mask mandate. This is not tyranny or a power grab. Instead, this is the sort of collective action that maintains a sanctuary of freedom. |

Name: Jessica Miller

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 12:55:12 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am a moderate person. I know our medical system has many weaknesses and I avoid prescription drugs. However, when it comes to the use of masks I know they are effective at reducing the spread of infectious diseases including Covid. Masks are not perfect but they are the best non-medical intervention we have to fight Covid. They reduce the the amount of virus droplets spread and inhaled and have been shown to reduce cases. | |I don't like wearing them but it is necessary right now. With no restrictions we have reached the awful distinction of having the worst case counts in the world recently. Mandates last winter were effective. | |I support AO 2021-91. I wish people would be responsible and work to reduce spread on their own but apparently they are too selfish so mandates like this are necessary. Please pass AO 2022-91. | |Thank you for listening and considering, |Jessica

Name: Kathleen Kenney

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 4:17:47 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 2021-91

Testimony: Assembly, | | I have not attended the Assembly meetings debating a mask mandate nor provided written testimony as of yet, so my voice has not been heard. I would like to go on the record opposing a mask mandate. | | Sincerely, | Kathy Kenney

Name: Dawn Wroblewski

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 6:56:09 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: No mask mandate please . Let's take responsibility for ourselves!!!

Name: Briar St. Clair

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 7:47:16 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: This is somehow a very controversial issue, and I appreciate that the Assembly is considering a mask mandate, even knowing the likely reaction from some members of our community. || Requiring masks to be worn in Anchorage to prevent the spread of a deadly disease is not the tyrannical action that the anti-mask group has made it out to be. Their slippery slope fallacy would have you believe that in just a short time we'll have descended into an Orwellian future, rife with government overreach. However, wearing masks has always been about protecting our family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and others in our community, not a power struggle between the government and its citizens. Studies done by the CDC and University of California San Francisco (among several other organizations and research institutes) have shown that masks reduce the transmission of the virus. These studies can easily be found online and are accessible to the public. || Please listen to the scientists, doctors, and medical professionals who have spent years studying viral diseases and public health. They are providing facts and information important to protecting our community. The health and well-being of all who live in or visit Anchorage should be our community's highest priority, and our discussions should be focused on helping those who are struggling during this time. Instead, we're arguing over facts that have already been solidly established by the scientific community and are considering implementing a mask mandate because there are some in our community who would sacrifice the lives of their neighbors before wearing a mask. || You were elected to the Assembly because Anchorage citizens trust you to exercise your power in a way that benefits our community. Please don't let the anti-mask group convince you that the use of that power to protect our community is malicious and dictatorial. || Thank you, | Briar St. Clair

Name: Dwayne Trujillo, MD

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 8:12:51 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 4A. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: Dear Anchorage Assembly Members, | | I am a Family Medicine physician who has been practicing in Anchorage for over 26 years. I am writing in support of the proposed mask ordinance. | | The main reason I am not testifying in person is because being in the presence of a large group of unmasked people goes against the guidance of all health experts. An additional reason is because I am working inhumanely long hours to take care of my patients who are suffering as a result of the clear lack of concern and leadership demonstrated by our governor, our mayor, and some members of the Assembly. My patients are afraid to do what used to be daily mundane activities such as going to the grocery store, church, restaurants, or visiting friends and families because there is a lack of mitigation measures to make them feel safe or protected. They are not going to the emergency rooms because they are unable to be seen in a timely fashion, thus endangering their health. Their surgeries are being cancelled or postponed because of the lack of beds in the hospitals ("elective" surgeries are not minor cosmetic surgeries; they include removal of tumors, joint replacements, back surgeries for herniated discs, heart valve replacements, etc.). They cannot go to work and are risking their own health because they have to stay home with their children who have COVID and are quarantined. | | For those of you who use "personal freedom" as an excuse to oppose this proposed ordinance, I hold you personally responsible for our embarrassing and unacceptable COVID case numbers and deaths, our hospitals being in crisis, our health care providers being physically and mentally exhausted (and assaulted), and the MAJORITY of our citizens feeling like prisoners with NO FREEDOM to go about their daily lives due to your selfishness and obstinance. It is because of people like you that an ordinance is even necessary - people who only think of themselves and not of their neighbors, fellow citizens, or the constituents they claim to represent. Perhaps those of you who do not believe in this horrifying pandemic or the health of others should form your own community with its own hospitals, schools, stores, etc. and enable the rest of us to live in a safer, healthier Anchorage. | | I do appreciate the members of the Assembly who support the mask ordinance. Your patience is commendable. | | Sincerely, | | Dwayne Trujillo, MD

Name: Phil Brna

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 8:25:22 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate Ordinance

Testimony: I urge the Assembly to pass a temporary mask mandate. I applaud the Assembly for even considering such a mandate in light of the lack of leadership by the mayor and his misinformation campaign. The mandate will save lives! The mandate will protect the health and safety of everyone who lives in or visits Anchorage and it will ultimately be good for the economy. Pass it now and to &^%\$ with the naysayers.

Name: Michael Timmcke

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 8:57:15 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: My family of 5, including myself, are fully vaccinated. We have done everything we can to support the pandemic response effort, including getting vaccinated and complying with prior masking requirements and recommendations. Several weeks ago, I felt sick and isolated myself. Thanks to the City of Anchorage for offering testing facilities. My test came back positive and I recovered after about 7 days in isolation. I don't believe I passed it on to anyone as I did what was recommended. || I DO NOT support a new mask mandate ordinance. I feel that my family and I have done everything we were supposed to do and a new mask mandate is just too much to ask of us who are immune by both vaccination and prior infection. || I don't feel mask ordinance will be effective because by the time it's implemented and enforcement gets compliance high enough to potentially make it effective, this Delta surge will be past us. We are already seeing a rapid decline in the USA and other countries. I suspect Alaska will follow shortly and the problem will pass with no ordinance needed. || Basically...this is too little too late...possibly a mask campaign at the start of the surge would have prevented the unfortunate outcome we have observed in the past month. Passing this ordinance now will harm the community more by creating division, defiance and discontent. || I encourage everyone to take personal responsibility. Listen to your body...if you feel unwell, isolate yourself until you feel better. If you must go out for test or medical treatment, while unwell, wear a mask to protect others. Demonstrate personal responsibility to protect your fellow citizens. Consider getting vaccinated if you don't already have natural immunity. And please never shame anyone who is wearing or isn't wearing a mask by their choice.

Name: Veronica Haberthuer

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 9:04:47 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask ordinance

Testimony: The current crowded maskless situation in the assembly chambers makes it impossible for me to attend and make a comment in person. People seem to be angry and inconsiderate of others' health. Not to mention the outright racism of the crowd that are not wearing masks. | I was taught that my freedoms and rights end when they encroach on the freedoms and rights of others. Wearing a mask helps others enjoy a basic freedom- one to be well and be alive. Recent studies have shown us that wearing a mask keeps schools open by controlling outbreaks. Our doctors and nurses use masks when they perform operations on us- it is agreed that the masks protect us from germs in that situation. | People in power- you, the mayor and governor- need to insist that people wear masks to protect the freedoms and rights of everyone to protect the life and health of everyone. Our hospitals and medical professionals are begging you to do this. Please heed the advice of our medical professionals and enact this ordinance. Many of our businesses will follow it and it will decrease the burden on our hospitals. | Right now, family members can't have surgeries in the hospital! They are living in pain and some may die because there is no room in the hospital. Please stop this craziness and stubbornness and enact the ordinance that requires masks indoors. | Thank you, | Veronica M. Haberthuer

Name: Stuart Greenfield

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 9:26:48 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 4a ao 2021.91

Testimony: I'm writing in favor of a mask mandate for indoor public spaces. Last year when I'm asked mandate and restricted entry to public places was in place we had the lowest covid numbers in the country. Today with all protections and mandates removed we have the highest. We have swamped out of already limited emergency services and ignored the please of our scientific and medical experts and what is worse we have allowed fear mongering and extreme political opinions to dictate our actions in a time of crisis. I am not in favor of vaccine mandates but we have to do something and wearing a mask in a enclosed public space should be the minimum we are asking people to do. Furthermore the fact that such a minimal requirement is being blown out of proportion by people who would utilize and misrepresent a history of tragedy for the world and the Jewish faith in particular and that are elected officials would support this is an indication of how ridiculous and political this issue has become.

Name: Annette Marley

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 9:33:28 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 4A on AO 2021-91

Testimony: Dear Anchorage Assemblymembers: | As a public health professional and a citizen of Anchorage I request that you immediately pass AO 2021-91. As you well know, Anchorage hospitals are overwhelmed with Covid-19 cases and physicians are having to make life and death decisions for patients who cannot access beds or medical interventions like dialysis. Furthermore, patients in rural Alaska are being inequitably left behind due to the lack of available beds at higher levels of care in hospitals in Anchorage. | The strong foundation of evidence indicating that mandatory mask policies bring down the transmission of Covid-19 is now indisputable. | My family and the other citizens of this city, including my still unvaccinated 11 year old, should have the ""freedom"" to not breathe in other people's exhaled virus when going to the grocery store or other public indoor areas. | Although I know you have heard from many of the opponents of this ordinance over the last week, please know that most of us understand the sensible measure this is. In fact, I have been impressed at how many people are voluntarily wearing masks at Fred Meyer and other stores lately. However, the protections against Covid-19 are not maximized unless all people are wearing masks in indoor areas, especially considering the strong possibility that some of those currently choosing to not wear masks are also not vaccinated, making it more probable they are infected transmitters of Covid-19. | It would appear the opponents of this measure are stalling the process of voting. Every day is a day of more infections, long-term illness, and deaths to follow. It is no exaggeration to say this is a public health emergency and must be dealt with as such. I am sure you have all the appropriate information with which to make a decision on this matter by now. | Please bring AO 2021-91 forward for a vote at once! | Sincerely, | Annette Marley, MPH

Name: Christopher Lawn

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 9:42:34 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 regarding public health safety measures for the COVID-19 pandemic

Testimony: Masks are essential, common sense and infringe on no one's freedoms. Individuals who oppose a mandate to wear a mask are being selfish and ignoring the common good. Just because you want to do something does not mean you have the right to trample the right to safety of others. A person's personal desires do not outweigh the safety of the community they are a part of. I urge the assembly to immediately enact this legislation. Don't allow foolish anti civic behavior to endanger our community. Think of the children who not only are not able to be vaccinated, but also those who won't be vaccinated because their parents are cranks who believe misinformation. This type of legislation will protect them better as well. || Thank you, | Christopher Lawn

Name: Emily Becker

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 9:45:05 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 14.L, AO 2021-91

Testimony: Anchorage Assembly: | | I fully support the Anchorage mask mandate. I have not written or testified previously because my Assembly members, Ms. Zalatel and Mr. Rivera, represent my views very well on this matter. I am confident in their leadership on this issue. The hospitals have urged us to increase our use of masks, and it's a simple thing to do to help everyone. | | Please pass the ordinance without further delay. | | Thank you.

Name: Grady Taylor

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 9:45:17 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 4.A. Ordinance N.. AO2021-91

Testimony: I support this ordinance. It is entirely justified for the Municipality to require a minor inconvenience for its residents and visitors during an emergency situation in order to prevent unnecessary deaths.

Name: Diane Smith

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 9:57:54 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: Please enact mandates in accordance with medical recommendations, and ignore (as best you can) silly, uninformed, blustery& bullying comments. |Thank you.

Name: Alyssa Martinez

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 10:04:42 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I reside in district 5, I am 23, and I am writing in strong support of this ordinance. I have lived in Anchorage for 5 years now, and Alaska for 7. I work on the North Slope, and have seen the havoc that COVID-19 wreaked on this industry. I have heard many testify about the state of our economy and how that coincides with this mandate, and so I will say this: our economy will not recover unless COVID numbers drop-and our cases will not drop without masking and vaccines. It has been proven time and time again. I have watched the assembly meetings this past week from work, as Anchorage residents oppose this mandate. It saddens me, but also angers me. This is not a political issue, rather one of public safety. I listen as opposing citizens say they would like ""things to go back to normal"", but wonder if they realize that things will never get back to normal unless we all do our part. | | I am also an immunocompromised person due to having type 1 diabetes. I have taken all safety precautions I can. I stay at home, wear my mask everywhere, and am fully vaccinated. I am still scared due to high case numbers in Alaska, and the number of people I see walking around without masks. My mom has called me twice in the last 2 weeks to tell me of at least 2 people our family knew personally that have died due to COVID-19 related complications. | | Wearing a mask is NOT a huge inconvenience, but dying is. | | Once again, I urge you all to pass this mandate. | | Thank you. |

Name: Grace Olrun

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 10:05:29 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 14.L, AO 2021-91

Testimony: My name is Grace P. Olrun, I reside in S. Anchorage and I'm represented by Susan LaFrance and John Weddleton. I work in the UMed district. | I am in support of the mandate. When there was infection control through the previous mandate on masks worn in stores and buildings, we experienced a lower infection rate and our hospitals were not overrun. Retail business declined but most people figured out how to live with the situation and continue to patronize businesses. There were obnoxious people in these stores who felt it was their right to yell and at times physically threaten employees trying to help their stores comply with the effort. That behavior by those obnoxious people is a negative reflection upon their upbringing AND their moral fiber or lack thereof. | Now, since it is the wild west in Anchorage with fools believing they are now immunologists and virologists from having googled or facebooked for 10 minutes, predictably infections are up, the delta variant is the precursor of the mu variant and we will burn through medical personnel for years to come. The bills will come due and everyone's health insurance premiums and Medicaid outlays are going to rise. A predictable and preventable economic disaster. | Our household will not use our significant discretionary income for retail locally since a loud minority of our fellow citizens have cowed the Assembly from exerting their responsibility to protect all of us, especially our finite medical personnel who are exhausted, traumatized, and harassed. | I support this mandate and encourage my representatives to vote yes.

Name: Jonathan Smiley

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 10:11:31 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: To whom it may concern; | |I'm not one to weigh in on many things outside of voting but this mandate has become so hotly contested that I feel the need to let my opinion be heard. I have a mission critical civilian job working on Elmendorf and we've been back to a mask mandate on base since the CDC changed their recommendation. I also took those recommendations into my daily life outside of the base. The roughest part of this is watching my partner deal with COVID patients every week at Providence as a registered nurse, she's been bedside with COVID patients since the beginning of the pandemic and is so stressed and burnt out right now with no reprieve in sight. Our healthcare workers' mental health is being stretched very thin right now even if all of them aren't saying so publicly. That's on top of the hospital being overrun. | |This isn't about personal freedom, this is about our community and everyone who lives here. I personally do not like government telling people what they have to do, but it's very obvious that at this time we need help so I am here to say that I support this mandate. As long as this is only a mandate to be used while Anchorage is seeing elevated community spread then I believe it's needed. I truly hope more people can move past the politics of this issue and consider getting vaccinated. | |Thank you for considering my thoughts on this issue, | |Jonathan Smiley|Scenic View, Anchorage

Name: Heather Paxson

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 10:16:28 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 mask ordinance

Testimony: Dear Assembly, | My name is Heather Paxson and I live in Eagle River. I am unable to attend in person. I sent an email previously, however I wasn't aware of this format to submit my testimony. I am submitting here to ensure my voice is heard. I am opposed to the ordinance that requires face masks. First and foremost, I believe that this should be a choice. If someone wants to wear a mask, that is their right. If a business chooses to require masks that is their choice. It would be my choice to then not go to that business or put on a mask to enter. You can find dozens of studies that support mask wearing and dozens that do not. Our own government health officials have even said they are not effective. As many others have testified, a face mask is a medical device and it is not within your scope to mandate such a thing. | Have you seen the research on the death rates in the US? Here is a link to the beloved CDC | <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/leading-causes-of-death.htm> | The leading cause of death in the US is Heart Disease, next cancer, and 3rd medical errors. If the municipality was concerned with the Public Health of Anchorage, you would make McDonald's illegal. You would making tobacco and alcohol illegal. Drive by the Anchorage VA (who is mandating masks and vaccines) and you will see their employees standing outside of the perimeter at the cigarette butt can. Really? The VA obviously does not care about the health of their patients or employees or the butt can would be gone and their employees would be forbidden from smoke breaks. Can you imagine telling someone they cannot drink or some?!! But yet you are trying to force me to wear a mask and the government is forcing me to get an experimental jab!! Also, if you cared about the health of your community, you would promote gym memberships and encourage people to live a healthy lifestyle. You act as if a mask mandate is the only way to be healthy. I am a healthy person. I have avoided wearing a mask, except for at my job (where it is required) and when flying. When I do have to wear it, I sweat so much that my mask is soaked. It fogs up my glasses and I cannot see. And yet, I have remained healthy. I should be able to determine what risks I am willing to take with my health, just like that smoker standing by the butt can or that person who is stopping at Brown Jug every night after work and downing a 12 pack. That isn't my business. And don't tell me that those things do not impact public health because they do! Those who smoke and drink too much alcohol are a drain on our healthcare system and drive our rates through the roof. They are the ones bogging down our hospitals, not healthy people like me! | It is obvious that you are not ""following science"" if you think that wearing a mask into a restaurant, but then removing it is going to keep people protected! | My biggest issue, aside from infringement on my rights, is that you DO NOT CARE ABOUT PUBLIC HEALTH with this mandate. There is a 99% survival rate for COVID-19. From the CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/covid19/mortality-overview.htm> | Out of 687,172 deaths, 90% had COVID listed as the underlying cause of death..not the actual cause of death. Which means they had other health issues. 76.9% of those are in the 65+ age group, only 19.6% for 45-64 and 3.5% for those 45 and under. Why are you going to push a mandate for everyone when everyone is not affected the same way? | Here is a link to the obesity and overweight data on the CDC website: | <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/obesity-overweight.htm> | 73.6% of adults 20+ are overweight or obese. So again, how about you ban McDonald's and other similar establishments instead of forcing healthy people to wear a mask. In 2018, there were 27 Million doctor visits for diabetes! (https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ahcd/namcs_summary/2018-namcs-web-tables-508.pdf) | Lastly, I am going to talk about children being masked. How many of you have kids? How many times did you get a call from the school nurse to say your kiddo is in the nurses office because

they just threw up, had a fever, said they didn't feel good? All of us with kids have probably dealt with this at one time or another. We did not shut down school! We did not make all kids wear a mask! The school sent the sick kid home and when they felt better, they went back to school. Why are we treating this virus so different that we treat others? Kids are not having severe cases of COVID-19. I am so glad that my kids are graduated and do not have to do this. But I am terrified for that family whose kid is kidnapped because they don't recognize the person wearing a mask or the babies who are losing out on critical years of development when they cannot see their caregivers faces at daycare. You are destroying an entire generation with mask mandates. Make this madness stop and vote against having a mask mandate. Mayor Bronson was voted in by the majority of the people and he represents what the Muni wants. If community members are afraid to go out without a mask, then wear your mask. |Additionally, I listed to Dr. Savitt during the committee meeting from 6 October where he clearly stated the data you are using to make decisions should be taken with a grain of salt and the data presented in the media headlines is misleading when our own MoA experts and state experts say the backlog is making it sound worse than it is. |Thank you for taking the time to read through my testimony. I really have a lot more to say, but I will stop here. Please consider all of my points prior to making your decision. |Sincerely,|Heather Paxson

Name: Charles Berray

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 10:28:04 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Public Mask Mandate

Testimony: I fully support reinstating a public mask mandate in the Municipality of Anchorage. We need to follow the best practices that science tells us will help slow/reduce the spread of the COVID Delta Variant. |Our hospitals are overwhelmed and our healthcare providers are exhausted. We could have prevented this. As it is now, I'm afraid to have any kind of medical emergency that would require hospitalization. At my age, they just might have to choose someone younger to get care. |It's time to show true leadership, not just pander to a base of science deniers and conspiracy theory addicts.

Name: Tamara Hansen

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 10:39:12 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 AO 2021-90(S) AO2021-92(S)

Testimony: Please state for the record: | |I strongly opposed this mask mandate. I voted for Mayor Bronson as mayor and he's doing exactly what I hired him to do. He is protecting our ""FREEDOMS"" of individual choice. The radical liberal assembly members are out of control. |We have done everything we were asked to do, we masked, we got vaccinated, we stayed 6' apart. |Masks don't work, leave us alone and let us live our lives. If people want to wear a mask, by all means wear a mask, wear a hazmat suit, we don't care - you do you and I'll do me. |Your fears are not my fears so don't infringe on my freedoms. | |Tamara Hansen|Sand Lake Resident

Name: Jesse Holt

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 10:40:10 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-(91) The Anchorage mask mandate

Testimony: Hello, | | My name is Jesse Holt and I live in midtown. I am writing to express my support for the proposed mask mandate. I have been watching the public testimony every day, and following the COVID situation in Anchorage very closely, and I agree with the overwhelming majority of doctors, front line workers and health scientists that masks are safe, effective and at this point necessary to help pull Anchorage out of this pandemic. During the testimonies over the past week opponents of this mandate have expressed a variety of opinions. We've seen sexist statements, homophobic statements, racist statements, and outrageous statements. What we haven't seen from a single one of these people is scientifically or statistically accurate statements. This public hearing has brought out the absolute worst and least educated members of our community to provide their ill-informed, politicized opinion about a practice that has not only proven effective all over the country, but even here in Anchorage only a year ago, when we had some of the lowest numbers of COVID cases and deaths in the USA. | | Mayor Bronson | and his supporters' opposition to this mandate is based on outdated studies or more often outright misinformation. It is grounded in nothing more than partisan politics and is a clear and present danger to the health and safety of the residents of Anchorage. | | Please vote yes on this mandate.

Name: Linda Cossairt

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 10:42:36 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: No more mask mandates, let the people be responsible for their own lives.

Name: Linda Cossairt

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 10:48:41 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: I'm from klatt/ocean view area I'm against mask mandates, let the people be responsible for themselves

Testimony: I'm from the klatt/ocean view area I'm against mask mandates, let the people be responsible for themselves.

Name: Carla Hunley

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 10:49:00 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I am NOT in favor of mask mandate..AO 2021... it is NOT your place to make health decisions for our community... we are smart people.. if you are in fear... wear a mask or stay home... most people now have herd immunity.. wash hands, stay home if sick... but it is NOT your place to mandate what I put on , or in , my body!|I beg you... vote NO on mask mandate|Thank you

Name: Randy Barnes

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 10:49:24 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 (Agenda Item #4A)

Testimony: With regard to pending Assembly action to legislate mandatory mask mandates within the MOA, given that there is no credible science to support mask mandates as an effective barrier to the transmission of the Covid virus and any variant thereof, I strongly oppose such legislation. Frankly, how could we think as a reasonable group of people that a cloth or fabric barrier would effectively work as a barrier to prevent transmission in the first instance. This doesn't pass the reasonability test, and given that the virus has about a 98% survivability rate similar to the yearly flu virus, what is the point of a mask mandate in the first place? If cloth barriers were an effective measure to prevent virus transmission these type barriers would have been in use for decades. Masks don't work, they are an infringement on our freedoms to make our own decisions and an unnecessary Government mandate and frankly an overreach of Government authority. | |In the strongest terms, please vote NO to mask mandates with in the MOA. | |Regards,|Randy Barnes|Chugiak Resident

Name: Todd Russell

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 10:52:06 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I'm 61 years old, a retired service connected disabled veteran and deaf in one ear and with significant hearing loss in the other. |I find that communicating with masked individuals is very difficult, as I rely on lip reading to some degree. |I've reluctantly taken the J&J vaccine, and still contracted Covid a month later, despite being masked and following the guidelines as presented by the CDC. |My experience- Masking is not effective in preventing the spread of this disease. | I encourage you to withdraw the proposed ordinance, and let people make their own healthcare decisions. |This proposed ordinance has torn Anchorage and the surrounding communities apart. Certain assembly members aren't physically present at the assembly meeting- is it fear of the virus or their constituents? |Please do not pass this proposed ordinance- I will not comply with it.

Name: Colleen Button

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 10:56:33 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 Covid 19 measures

Testimony: Good morning, |I am extremely concerned about the spread of Covid-19 in our municipality. I would like to encourage the Assembly members to bring back mask mandates. At this time not only am I worried about contracting Covid-19, I am reducing all potentially risky activities (I am even driving less) for fear of any sort of accident the would result needing emergent care that is not available in our community. No one likes to wear a mask, but it is really the lowest impact and most affordable way to slow the spread (in my view). Contrary to recent claims at assembly meetings, there is much scientific data that supports mask wearing. I work in the Atwood Building for the State of Alaska on the 16th floor. The elevators are slow and often packed. I would guess less than half the people using them wear a mask. The security guards do not wear a mask. I am unable to work from home and I feel I am risking the health of myself, family and friends by being exposed. I should add, I do used the stairs as a safer choice, but should not feel like I have to. I am lucky some people cannot manage the stairs. |I would like to close by saying I know this is a heated subject, and that you have a tough job. Senator Murkowski recently spoke on the Senate floor regarding the Covid-19 crisis in Alaska. It is very irresponsible that much of the devastation is so avoidable and we have not acted to prevent it. ||Sincerely| |Colleen Button| |

Name: Todd Russell

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 10:56:55 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-90

Testimony: Regarding the proposed ordinance, I disapprove of the changes you wish to make, and ask you to not pass it. If the existing policy was good enough when a mayor you favored was in office, then accept that the voters decided a new mayor was needed, and keep the existing policies in place.

Name: Todd Russell

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 11:00:50 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-92

Testimony: Regarding the proposed ordinance- if the existing policy was good enough under previous mayoral administrations, then accept that the people of Anchorage have elected a mayor you may not favor. Work with him, not against him. Your actions in making these changes only serve to further tear apart our community.

Name: Brendan Bonnett

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 11:02:08 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: In lieu of in-person testimony, which I feel is not being conducted safely, I'd like to indicate my support of the public health ordinance AO 2021-91. We are a family of four in Anchorage, with two kids in elementary school. FYI, we are also in support of a vaccine mandate at ASD, Thank you.

Name: Susan Morgan

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 11:03:52 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate ordinance

Testimony: I am a lifelong Anchorage resident. I support a mask mandate to get us safely through the pandemic. Wearing a mask is easy and does not impact one's freedom in any way. It only covers your mouth and cuts down on the virus you breathe out if infected. You can still go anywhere, do anything and say anything you like. No one's freedom is in jeopardy. In 1918-1918, those communities with safety measures in place did far better economically than those that did not. As then, consumers and tourists will return when they feel safe. Please pass this mandate and help that happen.

Name: Robert Ramos

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 11:08:35 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I'm writing this email to urge all the Assembly members to vote no to a mask mandate. We as adults and Americans should have the choice on if we want to wear a mask or not. The government should not be mandating mask for anyone. ||Robert Ramos|907-250-9214

Name: Jeremy Kovacevich

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 11:15:07 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-90/91/92

Testimony: Just pass the damn mask mandate and stop allowing certain members of the assembly to continually grandstand and jam up your business through use of their followers. Despite the misinformation spread by the Assemblyfolks from Eagle River and the Mayors' office masking works to control the community spread of COVID, period. A temporary mask mandate will reduce the transmission of COVID within the community and give our medical infrastructure a break. There is an utter lack of leadership at the executive levels for both the State of Alaska and the Municipality of Anchorage and I hope the assembly can provide some and implement the needed public health measures.

Name: Robert Ramos

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 11:16:04 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-92(S)

Testimony: I am writing to strongly oppose this AO as we the people elected our Mayor and the Assembly should not be trying to take power or authority away from him. Please vote no to this AO it's way out of line! || Robert Ramos

Name: Angela Lopuhovsky

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 11:16:04 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021 - 90, 91 and 92

Testimony: Anchorage Assembly, | | I am writing you today to let you know my husband and I strongly oppose the proposed (AO 2021-91) mask ordinance! Enough with ""the sky is falling"" fear mongering already! Cases are dropping as we speak! We truly believe that is just a political game (AO 2021-91 - which we also oppose) being played by some of you to go against Mayor Bronson! PLEASE STOP!! | | We also oppose AO 2021-90 - This is also a power grab by some of you! If you need reminding, you work for the citizens of Anchorage. | | Angela & Andy Lopuhovsky

Name: Francesca Allegrezza

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 11:36:41 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 2021-91

Testimony: I do not consent to 2021-91. It is unconstitutional. You will not make a law to prescribe me a medical device. None of you are my doctor. You are practicing medicine without a license. You personally will be held liable for all harm. |||I do not consent.

Name: Ted Eischeid

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 11:40:30 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Dear Assembly members, | | I have written previously in support of AO 2021-91, and after listening to the extensive public testimony and continued C-19 health research I still support this mask mandate. | | I'm writing this time to state my opposition and disgust to what appears to be intentional delaying tactics on the part of Ms. Allard and Mr. Bronson using questions and points of order. I see no good reasoning employed in these tactics and I support Chair LaFrance's efforts to manage these delaying tactics. | | I find it interesting that Ms. Allard never responded with questions to my earlier email supporting AO 2021-91. Perhaps because that kind of effort would cause a delay to her? I hope given her public behavior she is never given a leadership position in the Assembly. I find her ethics to be lacking. | | Thank you Assembly members for your service. Please implement AO 2021-91. Thank you. | | Ted Eischeid, Russian Jack Neighborhood

Name: Thorsten Eiben

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 11:43:16 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Ordinance Nos. AO 2021-90, AO 2021-91, and AO 2021-92

Testimony: Pls re-introduce the mask mandate. There is overwhelming scientific evidence that masks help reduce the spread of COVID. ||The individual freedom must end where it is beginning to endanger other people lives. No one in their right mind would advocate to allow drunk driving or speeding as individual freedom. The same applies here. ||Thank you

Name: Paul Berger

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 11:45:14 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021 91

Testimony: No on the mandate. || Unintended consequence will be less compliance and an even more divided community.

Name: Paul Berger

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 11:47:05 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021 90

Testimony: We had a ""free and fair"" election. Please honor the will of the people and let the mayor perform his duties and you yours.

Name: Paul Berger

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 11:48:24 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021 92

Testimony: No on this as well. We had an election. Let it test and allow our new mayor to govern.

Name: Francesca Allegrizza

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 11:51:38 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 2021-90

Testimony: I oppose 2021-90 | |This ordinance appears to be a temper tantrum by the Assembly members who put this forward. The codes do not need to be changed but some assembly members need to be voted out, and replaced. We see your hate for Bronson. We see your hate towards conservatives and Christians You are not inclusive, but a members only club. This is overreach by the legislative branch to take over the executive branch out of spite and hate. This is a hate crime on our mayor and his values | I oppose this hate and overreach. Keep the branches of government separate. The codes were not a problem until your hate for Bronson took over

Name: Bradley Giroux

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 11:53:38 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Ordinance 91

Testimony: I oppose ordinance 91. History has proven that viruses will peak and drop usually within a few months. Anchorage has been in a peak and numbers are dropping fast. Just today Anchorage dropped 2 more hospitalizations and 4 total drop statewide. The hospitals seem to back to business as usual. The urgency to pass this ordinance has passed. Passing this now after the fact would be purely political. Please stand for truth and not politics. ||Side note. Ivermectin is a safe and extremely effective alternative that has been widely used in Alaska. Please call the state injury epidemiologist in charge of poison control to find out the truth. People are not being injured from Ivermectin and they have not had any calls from people using horse Ivermectin. Message me and I can get you her direct phone number to call and confirm. HSS is not telling the truth. Please confirm that for yourselves. It is a scary thing that HSS may be manipulating the public with misinformation.

Name: Lisa Davis

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 11:55:51 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I am strongly in favor of the mask mandate. I work as a front line hospital worker and I see the damage COVID-19 has caused. I believe vaccination and masking help to decrease the spread and the intensity of symptoms of the virus. || I have not gone to testify in person because of the crowds of anti mask proponents who are there who are challenging, demeaning to others and are unmasked (and likely unvaccinated). I believe testimony is skewed because of people not wanting to face that crowd. I thank the assembly for taking this on and facing angry mobs at each meeting.

Name: Wreatha McDonald

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 11:57:24 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandate AO2021-91

Testimony: No on any mandates. | No | No | No

Name: Francesca Allegrezza

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 11:58:59 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 2021-90

Testimony: I oppose 2021-90 | | This ordinance appears to be a temper tantrum by the Assembly members who put this forward. The codes do not need to be changed but some assembly members need to be voted out, and replaced. These are responsibilities of the Mayor not the Assembly. This is blatant government overreach and power trip. The codes were fine until Bronson. This is a personal bias issue of the Assembly members who were used to getting their way. We see you. It must be hard working with this administration who has integrity and upholds their oath. Stop playing childish games. Stop changing codes to try and take over the executive branch. Stay in your lane. It's the legislative branch. You are not the executive branch. I oppose your sad tactics to undermine the mayor. Work together.

Name: Steven DeVries

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 11:59:55 AM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 Masking Ordinance

Testimony: I am offering public comments in favor of proposed Ordinance AO 2021-91, which will impose reasonable masking requirements to address an out-of-control spread of COVID in our community. Doing so will help our overloaded hospitals and health care workers and free up vital space needed by others in need of emergency or other urgent care which is currently unavailable because of the current surge of largely unvaccinated COVID patients. Doing so will also help our economy by shortening the current health care crisis thereby allowing many community members to feel comfortable to again visit stores, restaurants and other venues. In other words, the fastest way out of this crisis is to take reasonable steps to mitigate against the spread of COVID. Masking is one such reasonable step. It works to help stop the spread of COVID. Medical studies show this, the CDC, WHO, scientists (absent a few wing nuts), and physicians in our local hospitals are uniform in concluding the same. The proposed ordinance is a vital and reasonable step towards achieving this goal. ||Those complaining about infringements on ""personal choice"" and ""personal liberty"" are missing the point. Our society imposes many limits on ""personal choice"" and ""personal liberty."" Speed limits, seat belt laws and licensing requirements for professionals (such as doctors, dentists, etc.) are just a few examples of ""infringements"" on ""personal choice"" or ""liberty"" imposed by law in Alaska and across the nation. These laws are imposed to protect the public from individual conduct in the same way that a masking ordinance will help protect the public from those who choose to remain unvaccinated. ||At public meetings held this past week on the proposed ordinance we have seen ridiculous displays of childish public rancor, absurd comparisons to the Holocaust, as well as outrageous attempts at intimidation. These have come from a vocal minority who oppose the proposed ordinance. Please recognize these individuals do not represent the majority of Anchorage residents who actually support the proposed ordinance and the protections it will offer. ||I urge the Assembly to pass the ordinance as quickly as possible. Thanks for your consideration of these comments. |||||

Name: Jamie Gorham

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 12:00:45 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: A0-21 90 91 92

Testimony: My name is a Jamie Gorham. I have been a resident of Anchorage since 93 and I have never been more sad to live in this beautiful state. You all are trying to tear this city apart and so far doing a fine job...of only that! I oppose ALL of these agendas. We should not be required to wear a mask and then shamed and banned because we don't believe it is necessary. It is an individual RIGHT to choose whether they want to wear on or not as it is a business owners RIGHT do decide what they want in their place of business. Mayor Bronson was ELECTED mayor by majority and he needs to be able to do his job with out the city council trying to over ride all of his actions. And you work for this City, NOT the other way around. Trying to ban us from testimony is just plain Wrong. Pull you panties up and stop trying to RULE this city with all of this Petty BS and remember who you work for.
|Sincerely, Jamie Gorham. Over here living her life how she sees fit

Name: Rebecca Crelley

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 12:02:55 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 and AO 2021-90(S)

Testimony: Thanks assembly members for your service to our city. I do not see anywhere that wearing masks is using a scientific method to access the real facts. Masks are dangerous to health as they push the immune system to stop the chalking carbon dioxide into the body (according to Judy Mikovits, PhD). Basically they don't stop a tiny germ either. But if you want to purchase residents a bunch of N95 masks that would be useful. || The city ordinances for changing code on how the Mayor functions as head of the assembly is a legal precedent and anything to change it is illegal. You will be sued by Anc citizens if you try and pass a change.

Name: Ian van Tets

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 12:05:43 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Proposed Mask Ordinance

Testimony: Dear Assembly Members, | | I am writing in support of the proposed mask ordinance. | | I am concerned about the current situation in our hospitals and based on what I have seen and heard so far it seems that those most resistant to mask wearing are also those who pose the greatest danger to public health - i.e. those that are resistant to taking any form of mitigation measures. | | I urge you to listen to the public health professionals - the epidemiologists, the physicians, and the administrators responsible for running our hospitals - and to pass an ordinance that will help restrict covid-19 to levels our health system can manage. | | Yours sincerely, | Ian van Tets | | 3625 Carleton Ave. #D | Anchorage, AK 99517

Name: Francesca Allegrezza

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 12:08:53 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 2021-92

Testimony: This ordinance appears to be a temper tantrum by the Assembly members who put this forward. The codes do not need to be changed but some assembly members need to be voted out, and replaced. We see your hate for Bronson. We see your hate towards conservatives and Christians You are not inclusive, but a members only club. This is overreach by the legislative branch to take over the executive branch out of spite and hate. This is a hate crime on our mayor and his values |I oppose this hate and overreach. Keep the branches of government separate. The codes were not a problem until your hate for Bronson took over|I oppose 2021-92 | |I didn't change the ordinance number in previous message. This testimony is for 2021-92 not 90 resending to make sure it gets counted for 2021-92

Name: Jim Hill

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 12:20:45 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Proposed Mask Mandate

Testimony: I strongly oppose the mask mandate as the science does not support it and it lends itself to pitting neighbors against each other. We have dealt with Covid 19 for over a year now and have a clear understanding as to how it should be dealt with without government intervention.

Name: John Morris

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 12:24:24 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I support the provisions being recommended by this ordinance, especially the mandating to wear masks and observe physical distancing in all public spaces. || The virus is a significant threat to public health and well-being - and we're all in this together. As a nation, we value leadership which takes care of and protects the health and safety of all of us - that's what we need them to do. This ordinance does so - especially in the instance of a Mayor who isn't acknowledging his responsibility to perform this basic duty. | | Until the COVID virus is controlled and transmission is reduced, our experts explain it will continue to be a threat to our health, to our economy, and to ""normal"" activities. We owe it to our citizens to take every precaution available to eliminate transmission of the virus, for as long as it is prevalent in our community. That means encouraging vaccines, the wearing of face coverings and masks, and staying physically distant from others - for as long as it takes. | | I encourage the Assembly to adopt this ordinance and to keep it in place until such time as the virus is under control. Not only is that the best choice for our community - it's the fastest way (the only way, really) to get us back to normal activities. | | I thank you for your service and consideration! | | John Morris | Eagle River

Name: Carol Dunfee

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 12:25:45 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I strongly object to this ordinance for several reasons: | |1. A mask mandate puts undue burdens on the disabled. You established Disability Employment Awareness month, yet you want to add more burdens to those who are disabled by hindering their ability to keep and find work. By requiring masks citywide, you will make life incredibly challenging for those with hearing impairment, autism spectrum disorders, head trauma, anxiety issues, etc. Past mask mandates had exemptions for those medically unable to wear masks, but practically speaking, these so-called exemptions do not work. You have already heard numerous testimonies from Anchorage residents on these topics. Please listen to them. | |2. Rather than imposing questionable mandates, the assembly should instead focus on a broad approach to treatment that adds alternative early treatments to the vaccine and mask approach. We need more monoclonal antibody infusion centers and education about other early treatments like zinc and quercetin, among others. While none of these measures (vaccines, monoclonal antibodies, quercetin) are perfect solutions, increasing the availability of multiple treatments will help our vulnerable stay healthy. These early treatments would help keep both vaccinated and unvaccinated citizens out of the hospital. | |I would like to add that a friend of mine recently recovered from covid. She has heart issues and multiple auto-immune disorders. She went to one of Bronson's new antibody infusion clinics upon onset of covid. I truly believe this saved her life, or at the very least, kept her out of the hospital. She is back at work and is making a good recovery. Let's focus on these kinds of treatments, rather than measures that divide us. | |

Name: Richard Granholm

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 12:26:58 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 (Covid-19 mitigation measures)

Testimony: I completely support the proposed ordinance for Covid-19 mitigation measures. These reasonable, easy-to-do, life-saving measures should have already been in place. || I feel strongly enough to testify in person, but I do not want to participate in the potentially super-spreader crowd of unmasked angry people. || Thank you for your service! || - Richard Granholm | Anchorage

Name: Carol Dunfee

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 12:35:21 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-90

Testimony: I strongly oppose this ordinance. || This ordinance would give broad over-reaching powers to the assembly chair. While the chair is elected to the assembly by his/her district, the position itself is elected by an oligarchy of only 11 people. In contrast, the leader of the executive branch is elected by the people at large. Under no circumstances should the assembly chair have more power than the executive branch. || The mere proposal of this ordinance makes it appear that this assembly is unable to work well with those of different political persuasions. Mayor Bronson exercised his due rights to sit with his staff in a way they choose. To actually change the law so that he cannot do this appears petty and childish. It does not boost the city's faith in your leadership. || Instead, I suggest that you work to find common ground. Both the assembly and the mayor have the city's best interests at heart. Rather than making new laws to block him, you should be spending the energy to find commonalities and work from those. || There is no need to change the law over a petty disagreement.

Name: Mary Dean Broussard

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 12:37:58 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Hello. I am not comfortable coming to the hearings on the proposed mask mandate in Anchorage due to the high risk of exposure to Covid-19 however I do believe there is a great deal of urgency in passing and implementing this mandate. If I were to testify I would start by reading the following from the mandate |' Resolution No. AR 2021-303, a resolution of the Anchorage Assembly requesting the Mayor to direct that masks or face coverings are required in public indoor areas of municipal buildings and promoting mitigation measures when the Municipality of Anchorage is in a substantial risk or high alert level for community transmission of COVID-19.'|It is not complicated, it is not about individual rights or freedom; wearing a mask is a proven method of mitigating the horrendous impact of Covid-19 on the community of Anchorage. Anchorage is in crisis! Far too many people are sick, hospitalized, and dying from this pernicious virus that we know so much more about than we did when it first arrived, yet we are currently failing in our battle against it. Please, it is time to let reason prevail. I humbly ask all of you to please implement the proposed ordinance immediately to protect our community and our way of life. Covid-19 has taken away enough from all of us, clearly some more than others, but let's make sure that does not continue in Anchorage. My heart breaks for all who have suffered from the loss of life due to Covid-19, and those struggling with the fight against the virus right now (the patients, their families, and the medical team.) It is time to put aside our differences and all of the rhetoric aside; let's just do the right thing to take care of our community and our state. |Sincerely, |Mary Dean Broussard|2932 Captain Cook Estates Circle|Anchorage, AK 99517

Name: Dan Monson

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 12:40:29 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Covid-19 is surging in Alaska including in Anchorage. I support the Assembly measure mandating masking in Anchorage to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and allow our citizens to feel safe when conducting everyday business around town. Vaccination is our most powerful tool to limit the impact of Covid-19 but until more people are vaccinated and rates of infection decline, we need to take simple steps to limit its spread including masking up in public places. This is not an individual freedom of rights issue because this measure is not targeting any one group of people within the community. This is a public health issue that affects us all including our local economy. This measure would require all persons to wear masks no matter their political, religious or personal beliefs and thus applies equally to everyone. I don't see this as any different than other laws and rules we follow to keep each other safe. Things like seatbelt laws, many traffic laws, limits on smoking in public places etc... are all in place to both protect individuals AND those around them. Please vote to enact this measure and protect our community. || Dan Monson, Anchorage AK

Name: Carol Dunfee

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 12:41:21 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-92

Testimony: I strongly oppose this ordinance. | If this ordinance wasn't needed for past administrations, it certainly isn't needed now. Please think about the long-term effects of this ordinance. What about when the pendulum swings the other way and we have a conservative assembly with a liberal mayor? Will you want this ordinance then? | We are a country of laws. Changing the laws to fit our current whims does not serve long-term order. Over and over, I have witnessed this assembly twist the law to fit their purposes rather than honoring the spirit in which the law was written. Our municipal charter already provides for a fairly weak executive branch. There is no need to transfer any more power away from it to an already powerful legislative branch. | The ""whereas"" sections even admits that only one nominee has been turn down. Why would you change the law because of one declined nominee? Isn't that an excessive over-reaction? | The people duly elected Mayor Bronson. Respect the will of the people and the powers granted to the executive branch by the municipal charter.

Name: Glenn Cravez

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 12:45:42 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Emergency Orders re COVID

Testimony: 1- The majority of Anchorage residents support a temporary mask ordinance to deal with the Delta surge and the health care emergency our hospitals are trying to deal with. | 2- It is irresponsible for the Municipality to offer few COVID testing hours rather than more testing hours during the current surge. | 3- It is irresponsible for the Mayor and his supporters, including those who don't even live in Anchorage, to continue to delay the Assembly's consideration of a temporary mask ordinance. It's well past time for the Assembly to vote in favor of such an ordinance. And to override the Mayor's expected veto. | 4- Each delay means more people being denied needed medical treatment, more people with resulting adverse medical consequences, and yes, more people dying unnecessarily. | 5- Enough is enough. Stop enabling the lunatic fringe by continuing their public spectacle.

Name: Jessie Hostetter

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 12:56:22 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: |""As a resident of Anchorage I urge you to vote NO on AO 2021-91. Let me remind you that we elected you to protect our civil rights and not dictate a mandate that has nothing to do with public health but everything to do with manipulation and control. |Be assured that the citizens of our great city are watching each and every one of you and if you place your social agenda ahead of our liberty, you will pay at our next election.

Name: James McCauley

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 1:03:26 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021 90, 91 and 92

Testimony: There seems to be a change from representing the people of Anchorage, to ruling the people of Anchorage. The people of Anchorage do not want or need rulers! I oppose AO 2021 90, 91 and 92!

Name: Laura Wolff

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 1:11:02 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: general comments and proposed mask mandate (AO 20201-91)

Testimony: Dear Anchorage Assembly, || I write to you today to thank you for your public service, to discuss the comment forum during this public comment period, and for considering to mandate masks indoors while COVID-19 case rates are so high. || First, thank you. I truly appreciate your public service. A very small but vocal minority of our population has made your recent work especially difficult. || This leads me to my next point. That small group's recklessness and ugliness have prevented the majority of citizens, like me, from coming to Assembly meetings. As a result of this experience, in the future, I would support less time for in-person commenting and time instead for written comments, because the current process has dragged on, become so ugly, and has prevented an actual cross-section of the population from publicly appearing at meetings, which skews visually the sense of community. || Finally, I support the proposed mask mandate. Certainly, masks are an inconvenience. No one is debating that. But they are a minor inconvenience proven to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. As a mother of a baby and young child, this is especially important to me. And as a citizen who wants to spend more money in town, this is especially important to me. The lower the community transmission rates, the healthier Anchorage becomes-both medically and economically. I patronize businesses that require masks not because of my political views but because it's safer for my family-including my unvaccinated two-month and two-year olds. To that point, while the transmission rates were lower and masks were required, I spent much more money in town. For the health of both the people of Anchorage and the economy, this is smart idea. || Whatever you decide regarding masks, thank you for your public service, || Laura Wolff |

Name: Enzina Marrari

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 1:11:03 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 4A Ordinance No. AO 2021-91, an ordinance of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly regarding public health and safety measures for the COVID-19 pandemic, Assembly Members Zaletel and Petersen.

Testimony: Esteemed members of the Assembly, ||First, I would like to thank you for your service to the Municipality of Anchorage, and especially so during this tumultuous and unprecedented time. ||Second, I would like to communicate my support of a mask mandate for the Municipality of Anchorage. ||I would like to address a question asked by Assemblymember Weddleton at a previous meeting. The question was whether or not a mask mandate would be effective if a large group of people did not follow the mandate. My response to this would be, yes - it would be effective. Several Anchorage businesses and venues have posted that they follow all municipal and state guidelines for Covid-19. Currently, there are none. If there was a municipal mask mandate, those businesses and venues would follow the ordinance just as they did last year. This alone would help to reduce the skyrocketing transmission rates we are currently seeing. Stores and businesses would be supported by the ordinance in enforcing these mitigation efforts. Additionally, the loudest voices do not equal the majority of voices, and we should not disregard the value of a broad public health measure because a group of people will resist. Those individuals will still have the choice to not wear a mask and will have to face the consequences of that choice. I understand that individuals who do not want to wear masks still won't. However, a Municipal ordinance mandating masks would support public spaces, businesses, and venues to enforce mask-wearing on their grounds. This could help to resolve disputes and increase the safety of shared public spaces. Will people still go unmasked? Yes. Is this a reason to not support a public health measure? Absolutely not. ||I have been appalled at the behaviors I have witnessed in the Assembly chambers. It makes me feel unsafe in my own community. I wear a mask outside of my home because I am at high risk for severe or fatal outcomes of Covid-19. I have been yelled at, ridiculed, and threatened by strangers on the street. Strangers that scream for freedom and personal choice within the walls of the chambers you represent. These attacks are fueled and supported by the mob mentality and aggression that we have seen in those assembly chambers. This discourse is not about freedom, it is not about personal rights or choice. If it were, I would not be attacked for practicing my own safety mitigation in public. This is about politics. It is about division, control, mistrust, instability, divisiveness, and fear. ||It is shocking, embarrassing, and terrifying to see what Anchorage has become. In my heart, I know this mentality does not reflect the Anchorage I moved to more than 20 years ago. The Anchorage I moved to was kind and welcoming. It was strangers helping strangers. It was strangers saying hello and asking how your day was. I felt safe in my community. Now, I avoid eye contact and cross the street if I see someone unmasked because I am afraid for my safety. This is unreal and unacceptable. ||I am equally shocked and terrified to see the blatant racist rhetoric of those comparing a public health mitigation strategy to the holocaust and genocide of the Jewish people. What have we become? I feel like we are all to blame for enabling this behavior. I am not only concerned for my safety but I am concerned for the safety of those in the chamber. It does not take much for an angry, vitriolic, aggressive mob to turn violent and we have already seen arrests of those with weapons in the chambers. ||The current administration has fueled the tactics and irrational behavior displayed throughout our community - not only in those chambers - but in every individual who spits in the face of someone making a personal and free choice to wear a mask. ||Please do what's right for the safety of our community. Enact a mask mandate that has the health and safety of the public at its core. The current

administration is a health and safety risk to our community. Please support this mask mandate.
|| Respectfully, || Enzina Marrari

Name: Cally Arts

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 1:22:03 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Good Evening, |My name is Cally Arts. I live in Midtown and my representatives are Meg Zaletel and Felix Rivera. |As I've tried to determine how best to protect my family's health and how to contribute to the health of my community during this pandemic, I've done lots of reading and listening. I've read lots of studies and medical journals and I've listening to lots of lectures done by scientists and doctors. I find medicine and science to be fascinating subjects so for me this has become a fun hobby. I could talk for hours about these things but I only have 3 minutes. So, instead I'm going to focus on a question I've heard consistently asked in this meeting, ""How have or how do mask mandates affect my family?"". I'm going to start with how they affect my husband and then maybe that will add more context to the stories about my kids. |My husband is, or was, a heavy equipment mechanic. In November of 2020 he was involved in an accident at work. One morning he was outside of his truck which was parked at the bottom of a hill. The hill was icy and a truck further up the hill broke free from the ice. The truck slid down the hill, struck my husband, and then pinned to him to his truck. My husband sustained, as I'm sure you can imagine, traumatic injury to his hips and core. Thankfully he was able to start physical therapy for his injuries this spring. I'm sure you can imagine how strenuous it is to rehab a traumatic hip and core injury and how important it is to be able to breath as you're trying to do this rehab. At first his doctor would allow him to pull down his mask while he was doing his exercises. (And his doctor was very responsible about it. He would keep his mask on and he would say, ""I'm going to stand back here so we're socially distanced and there's no one else anywhere near us. I just want you to be able to breath while you do your exercises."" My husband is also screened for symptoms and he has his temp checked before he comes into the facility.) Despite all of this our doctor got in trouble for allowing my husband to pull his mask down during exercises. So my husband has to wear the mask and because he can't breath as well he has to take the exercises slower. Therefore, to some extent, I believe this affects how much he is able to get out of his physical therapy sessions. He is getting stronger now so the therapy isn't quite as strenuous as it was before but earlier on he was even concerned that he would pass out from the combined strain and the lack of oxygen. |As for my kids...I have 3 young kids who're, today, 7 years old and younger. During the previous mask mandate there was a period of time when, due to their young age, none of my kids were required to wear a mask. In spite of this, on at least 3 separate occasions I had people confront my kids and tell them that they needed to wear a mask. I'd be standing RIGHT THERE but they would go straight to my YOUNG kids and lecture them about masks. (With the exception of one lady who just yelled something at us and then ran away.) So I've seen in this proposed ordinance that exemptions have been made for these people and those people but in my experience those exemptions get either forgotten or ignored. You know, when there is no mandate people wear masks or they don't we all just kind of do our thing. But, in my experience, when there are mandates people seem to feel that they have permission to harass even YOUNG KIDS. They yell first and then ask questions later. Or sometimes they don't! Sometimes they yell and then they run away. You could say well why don't you just leave your kids at home? Well, with who? Especially earlier this year my husband was broken! He could barely get up let alone watch our little kids while I went to the grocery story. And I do have a good support system in our friends and family but Covid has stretched us all thin. It's not always possible for me to find someone who can watch my kids. That being said, it still doesn't excuse people from harassing my young children. |I will also mention that for several different reasons we've decided to homeschool our oldest son. One of those reasons being ASD's

mask policy. We believe it is very important for our son's health and education that he be able to breath fully and freely. |I also have concerns about how a masked public does and will affect our children's development in regards to communication skills. In this regard I am especially concerned for our 1 year old. She is way more expressive at home than she is in public. When we go out in public she just dead pans. People talk to her and she just stares back at them expressionless. This is completely different behavior from how she is at home where the people she interacts with are never masked. |The final thing I'll say is that my family masks as little as possible and we have not gotten Covid. |For so many reasons and on so many levels I don't think this proposed mask mandate would be helpful and I do not consent. |Thank you,|Cally Arts

Name: David Brock

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 1:30:55 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91

Testimony: I am writing to the assembly as an educator and Russian Jack Community Council area resident, urging the assembly to pass AO No. 2021-91. The health and safety of our community is too important to trust to incompetent and unfit leaders who would resign if they were capable of feeling shame, like Mayor Bronson and Assembly members Allard and Kennedy. While Mayor Bronson tries to game the data collection process to make the pandemic in Anchorage seem like it is getting better, Anchorage leads the state, which leads the country, in COVID-19 cases. The medical care system in Alaska is operating at its limit, of course the stupid wing of the Republican Party populated Bronson, Allard, Kennedy, and their shameless allies will dismiss any of this as lies and propose pants on head stupid replies, better described as lies, to explain away inconvenient facts supported by a large body of credible evidence. Do not let Mayor Bronson's lies and the actions of the mob he has whipped up with his lies prevent the Assembly from taking necessary actions to protect public health.

Name: Linda von Bose

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 1:40:47 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Hello! | | I have no interest in attending in person the assembly public hearings regarding this proposed ordinance given the outrageous and dangerous behavior of many of those there. However, I DO want to ENCOURAGE THE ASSEMBLY to listen to those of us WHO CARE ABOUT THE PEOPLE we are in contact with and APPROVE THE ORDINANCE AO 2021-91 (mask mandate). The health of this community is a responsibility to ALL its members and I am happy to do WHATEVER IT TAKES to help control the spread of this nasty virus. | I'm tough enough to wear a mask. | | Please pass AO 2021-91!

Name: David McPhetres

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 1:43:19 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO2021-91

Testimony: My name is David McPhetres and I am from Chugiak. I am writing to testify against a mask mandate. I've listened to passionate testimony from people on both sides and realize that this will merely create the opportunity for division and not unity of the purpose which is to overcome a public health issue. I don't question the constitutionality of such a mandate, I question your ability to enforce it and therefore recognize that it would further degrade confidence in City government. I understand your bias for action in time of crisis. The action in this case recycles a countermeasure that we've applied numerous times over the past 18 months. The blame, it appears, for the next surge, next peak, or spike in cases falls squarely at the feet of those who don't or won't comply. That will not change with this Ordinance and I expect it will only incite further civil disobedience from additional citizens who see it as an invasion of their right to self-determination. Generally, in my experience, people gather together for the common good when there is a public disaster or emergency. They often suspend or forego some of their perceived rights to achieve a common purpose. In those cases, while government may be cautious, the differing viewpoints are blended in unity of effort as evidenced by the Patriot act that followed 9/11. There is no unity of effort in this case. The Muni is split at the borough wide level and a mask mandate will widen that divide. If passed, there may be a perceived coincidental impact on case rates as they follow a natural curve down from today's highs. Every business and institution that wants to apply a masking rule may do that without an ordinance, and I will continue to comply. It sounds as if I am unique in that compliance. The ability of government to compel compliance is usually tied to fear: fear of fines, incarceration, etc. A civil society responds to that fear by generally following the rules. When the fear turns to contempt, it creates a challenge that a governing body must overcome to remain viable. That is extreme and I don't want my town to descend into that state over masks. This mandate would do little more than solidify contempt rather than achieve consensus and you don't have the obvious means to enforce it. Vote no and find a better way to achieve a common purpose.

Name: Shirley Tuzroyluke

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 1:50:14 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: Honorable Assembly Members: || Re: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91 || I'm asking you to step forward with decency and courage to respond effectively and thoughtfully to the challenges that lie before us. || I have paid my property taxes for over 40 years in District 3, which has consistently had one of the highest mill rates in the city. Throughout these years, I felt assured that because the taxes went into education of our children, safety, and quality of life things like roads - that our community was relatively healthy. I felt assured that this community supported the safety of its' citizens - from crime and from contagion. I therefore support this very minimal mitigation of wearing masks to protect each other from spreading this virus. || As citizens, we have the responsibility to our fellow citizens to not infect them with a disease that may lead to death. It is this sense of caring for the health and safety of others that leads our decision as to whether we take precautions to stop the spread of a virus that is presently overrunning our hospitals. || The latest information about the Delta Variant from CDC webpage: || Delta Variant: What We Know About the Science | Updated Aug. 26, 2021 | Languages || On July 27, 2021, CDC released updated guidance on the need for urgently increasing COVID-19 vaccination coverage and a recommendation for everyone in areas of substantial or high transmission to wear a mask in public indoor places, even if they are fully vaccinated. CDC issued this new guidance due to several concerning developments and newly emerging data signals. || Our democracy is built on a foundation that accommodates disagreement. In the history of this nation, our statesmen have been elected for their ability to advocate, compromise, and negotiate agreements. This is not happening in Anchorage's assembly. I respectfully ask that you use the tools embedded in our democracy to join the other elected officials from our city to come to an agreement on this very important issue. || Our democracy is seriously destabilized by the presence of a mob that openly jeers, mocks, and heckles anyone with opinions divergent of theirs. I fear for my own safety if I should personally testify in front of this flock. || I urge you to consider the public good and vote for our citizens to wear masks in public in this very short duration of time. || Thank you, || Shirley Tuzroyluke |

Name: Laurie Savitt

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 2:05:40 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I OPPOSE the mask mandate. Please VOTE NO to AO 2021-91. | Laurie Savitt | District 4. |

Name: Jordan Beckenbach

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 2:17:20 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO-2021-91

Testimony: My name is Jordan Beckenbach. I was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. For the past 18 months, our city has adapted to comply with lockdowns, mandates, and social distancing. More people are working from home than ever before. There is curbside pickup and grocery delivery. There has been outdoor dining and masks and hand sanitizer are made available at just about every public establishment. | Precautions have been taken to mitigate the spread of covid and accommodations have been made for those who are living in fear of it. And that's what this mandate is about - fear - NOT science. ""A mask is a wet, moist environment that's collecting viruses and bacteria... it's not useful to protect you from other people."" And maybe that doesn't sound like much coming from me; I'm not a scientist. But those words are not my own. Those words came from Dr. Anne Zink. | Masks are petri dishes where bacteria and filth collect. And you are mandating that we wear them on our faces. That's not science and that's not health. | And while its disgusting and unhealthy. If Molly McDonald over here wants to wear one, that's great - because that's her choice and that's her right. And that's what this comes down to - our rights. | Your role as Anchorage Assembly is not to pacify our fears. It's to protect our rights. It is not YOUR job to make OUR decisions about OUR ""Health"" - and thank God for that. Your job is to represent us. You. Work. For. Us. You have a duty to uphold the state and federal constitutions, and because, as an assembly you are failing to do that, we are here tonight to remind you that its time to get back in your lane. Stop the overreach, stop the fear-mongering, and stop the mandate. Thank you. I vote no on this ordinance

Name: Heidi Granholm

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 2:23:05 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 (Covid-19 mitigation measures)

Testimony: Dear Anchorage Assembly, | I am firmly in support of your proposed ordinance for Covid-19 mitigation methods described in AO 2021-91. Please pass this ordinance! The measures are life-saving, easy, compassionate, and will help ALL of our residents. | - Respectfully, | Heidi Granholm

Name: Christian Rawalt

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 2:26:07 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO no. 2021- 91

Testimony: Hindsight 2020. Leaders listen. | I thank you for taking time to take comment on this important issue. Our city is divided on the mask mandates as you have heard for the last 6 sessions. I am not in favor of the proposed mask ordinance for many of the reasons that have been covered previously. | My main concern is what takes place when someone voices objection to something and is still ""forced"" to comply. In many situations, that is criminal activity. When people don't have a voice or the convictions are not respected, this leads to the feeling of helplessness and powerlessness. These feed anger and so on. | This is an issue of liberties. When nurses are willing to lose their job over a Medical issue, that should be a signal that this is not a simple issue. | Many leaders I'm sure make hard decisions and ignore the opinions of the people they are leading, some time the results can be quite devastating. General Custer comes to mind or the recent exit from Afghanistan. Listening to objections is hard for leaders. It goes against their pride or feeling of determination to get things done, but humility is needed! Be humble. Listen to the people with objections to this path and hopefully the hindsight from these meetings will be a more united city. Don't force compliance. |

Name: Nico Reijns

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 2:27:54 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 14.L Mask Mandate

Testimony: Please pass this emergency mask mandate ASAP! People are getting sick and dying!

Name: Debra McGimsey

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 2:32:42 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO-2021-91

Testimony: I am writing in support of AO-2021-91, to mandate masking in public indoor spaces and outdoor crowded spaces to reduce the spread of Covid-19 in our community. Alaska currently has the highest case count/100,000 in the nation and our hospitals and medical care specialists are overwhelmed. Masking and distancing have been shown to be effective mitigation measures to lower the spread of airborne diseases. | | I take immunosuppressive medication for a chronic condition. Those who choose not to get vaccinated, or mask up, increase my risk of contracting covid-19 in public spaces, even though I am fully vaccinated. For this reason, I avoid the gym, restaurants, and other non-necessary locations. In addition, children under 12 do not have the choice of vaccination. Those against masking are making selfish choices, rather than opting to demonstrate freedom. If adults choose not to vaccinate, or mask up, then let them stay home and avoid indoor public spaces. They are certainly free to make that choice. Let's vote to protect our children, elderly, immunocompromised, and other high risk individuals; as well as our healthcare workers. | | I have chosen to provide written testimony, over public testimony, out of fear of the mob appearing at the assembly meetings. Thank you for your service during this trying time.

Name: Owen Tucker

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 2:44:26 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Dear assembly members, | |Please pass the mask mandate immediately. This should not be contentious. Aside from vaccination, mask-wearing and physical distancing are still the easiest tools we have to limit the spread of COVID-19. My two small children have no problem wearing masks, and they also have no problem understanding why they need to wear them. Apparently the same cannot be said for many adults in our community, including the mayor. These people can spread falsehoods all they want, but it will not change the facts of our situation: we are in a crisis, and we need to do something. The proposed mask requirement is the most obvious measure we can take. | |Thank you, |Owen Tucker

Name: WILLIAM J HAUSER, PhD

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 2:45:00 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: MASK MADATE

Testimony: Comments by William J Hauser for the Anchorage Assembly in support of a COVID mask mandate. Oct 7, 2021. | I believe in the right of personal freedom but I also believe that community safety trumps my personal choices (e.g., use of safety belt, payment of fair tax.)|- As with historic viruses (e.g., polio, smallpox) we can control this virus only with community cooperation that precludes virus transmission (e.g., vaccination and masking).|- Within my family, we have elderly, immune-compromised, and a juvenile. All who are eligible, are vaxed. All mask and all isolate to avoid this debilitating virus.|- Un-vaxed individuals become ill, spread more virus, and die at a much higher rate than non-vaxed. |- I trust the peer-reviewed body of scientific research... not ""research"" or cherry-picked, isolated, non-reviewed opinion reports that may claim to refute proven, accepted medical practice. |- It is unconscionable that a need for ""personal rights"" can result in a near collapse of our health care system, exhaust medical staff, and loss of proper community health care that must be rationed.|- I support prevention and suppression of Covid. I support vaccination and masking. | William J. Hauser, Bayshore in Anchorage, 349 7175

Name: Ammon Swenson

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 2:52:47 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Hello, | | I am a born and raised Anchorage resident who lives in Spenard. I am writing in support of stricter mandates regarding masking and vaccination in Anchorage. There is a loud minority who is uninformed and has zero convincing arguments against stricter masking regulations. I have heard lies and conspiracy theories as their only arguments against reasonable mandates. There are real consequences for doing nothing and history is watching. | | Thank you, | | Ammon Swenson

Name: Anna and Stan Mayra

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 2:53:28 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 4.A. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91 Mask Mandate

Testimony: The mask ordinance is a reasonable and logical way to keep people safer during this pandemic. Our community COVID 19 numbers are soaring. Our health workers are exhausted and their own health and well-being is at stake. Our medical resources are stretched so thin that people are triaged and some are being denied care! It is simply unconscionable that we are in this situation, especially because our original response to this pandemic was logical and successful. | Many of our children are too young to receive vaccinations, so we need to keep this disease at bay until we can protect them. Our goal is to keep them in school, progressing in their studies as best we can. Lowering community transmission is a path to this end. The illness of COVID 19 impacts the health and economic well-being of everyone in our community. | | The proper use of masking and social distancing will help to keep our community healthy physically and economically. I support the use of a logical, medically sound, community-minded ordinance to insure that people do one thing that can really make a difference here: mask up. |

Name: Robert Crandall

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 2:55:14 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: October 7, 2021 Special Meeting 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Testimony: I have lived in Alaska for over 35 years and am currently a resident of Chugiak. I strongly endorse any proven method of controlling the covid pandemic. Masking mandates, vaccination mandates and capacity restrictions in public places are all appropriate in my view.

Name: Julie Barrow

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 2:56:03 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I am against AO 2021-91! It is not the government's job to make health decisions for citizens. You have no right to force people to wear a mask. If a person chooses to not wear a mask, that is their choice. Also there is nothing stopping someone from wearing a mask, if that's what makes them feel safe. Majority of Anchorage stores have curbside and delivery options in place. If a person is so paranoid and concerned about being around the general population they should arrange their own habits to lessen contact. To force others to comply to a unnecessary and ridiculous mandate is completely out of line. Anchorage elected a mayor opposed to forced mandates for a reason. Masks should be a choice made by the individual, not forced by assembly members acting on their own personal agendas.

Name: Julie Barrow

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 3:00:59 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-92

Testimony: I am against AO 2021-92. This clearly goes against the reason of separation of government branches. This seems like an attempt to tie the hands of our elected mayor.

Name: Kacey Hopson

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 3:05:57 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO No. 2021-91, #4A on Agenda

Testimony: Hello, || My name is Kacey Hopson, I am a resident who lives near Spenard and Minnesota. Assembly Members Quinn-Davidson and Perez-Verdia are my representatives. || I am writing in support of AO No. 2021-91. I appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony because I do not feel safe testifying in person in a room full of people who do not want to wear a mask. || I support AO 2021-91 because it is the sensible thing to do under our circumstances. Given the fact that our hospitals have had to implement crisis standards of care and Alaska's COVID19 case rate is now the highest in the nation, with our average rate of daily new infections over the last week was more than double the national average according to the New York Times, I feel a mask mandate is the least we can do to help reduce the rapid rate of COVID19 infections in our city at a time when our healthcare workers desperately need it. We need to be good relatives to our healthcare workers, our friends, families, and neighbors, and a mask is a small inconvenience to bear for the sake of reducing the number of hospitalizations our city is experiencing. For the sake of saving lives and helping our healthcare workers, who are bearing the brunt of this pandemic, I urge you to pass this mask ordinance. I certainly would feel safer around town if I knew that we were all doing our part to reduce the spread of COVID19. || Additionally, Anchorage is in a unique position as a city. Many people from around Alaska rely on accessing services in Anchorage that they may not have access to in their regions or towns. We must keep Anchorage a safe place for them as well as they come into the city for food, fuel, healthcare and other services. || Please pass this mask ordinance. || Thank you, |Kacey Hopson |||

Name: Scott Owen

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 3:07:38 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 4.A. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: I originally submitted the comments below to the Anchorage Assembly via e-mail to wwmas@muni.org on September 27, 2021. I have since been informed that in order to be included in the public testimony it needs to be submitted via this form. I am contacting you to express opposition to the proposed mask mandates and enforcement criteria contained in AO 2021-91. I understand that this ordinance is scheduled for a vote on Tuesday. Please vote against this measure. I would encourage you to consider the advice of Dr. Joseph Ladapo, a graduate of Harvard Medical School and a health policy researcher and physician at the University of California-Los Angeles, who recommended: "Public health is not about a single item. It's not about how many cases of COVID there are in a location - that is a part of public health but it's not the only thing." There is much more to the health, happiness, and success of our city than the myopic focus on a single issue can address. Let's reject fear as the basis of policy. Your constituent from Assembly District J, Section 6.

Name: Scott Owen

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 3:12:50 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 4.A. Ordinance No. AO 2021-91

Testimony: Anchorage Assembly, | | I am concerned about a recent admission by the Alaska Commissioner of Health, Adam Crum, and Alaska's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Anne Zink. In an article on Alaska Public Media entitled ""Alaska reports more than 1,700 cases and dozens of deaths from backlog"" published on September 24th they stated that case counts were especially high due to clearing out a backlog of unreported cases. This surge in reporting has reflected negatively on our city and has caused unwarranted alarm in a community that is already experiencing heightened economic, social, and mental stress. | | Due to the fact that the recently proposed AO 2021-91 uses case counts as the basis for municipality wide restrictions, it is concerning that the way that our city and state are reporting the numbers does not seem to correlate with actual daily, weekly, or even monthly cases. A simple reporting delay could cause the restrictions of this ordinance to become active even when the actual case numbers would not support the measure. | | In addition to concerns about how reporting is done, I would like to let you know that I am opposed to the measures contained in the proposed ordinance. | | I encourage you all to vote against AO 2021-91. | | Here are some links to material that support my comments above: | | <https://www.alaskapublic.org/2021/09/24/alaska-reports-record-covid-case-count-and-dozens-of-deaths-from-backlog-painting-grimmer-picture-of-delta-surge/> | | https://www.city-journal.org/masking-children-unnecessary-and-harmful?wallit_nosession=1

Name: Mary Hacker

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 3:14:24 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Mask wearing is a safe, sensible and inexpensive measure for all. As long as vaccinations remain optional then masks should be required. I would encourage antimaskers to become familiar with the term ""public health"" and recognize that an individual's perceived freedoms end where they violate another's freedom, in this case the freedom to be alive and healthy. Visit the emergency room and / or talk to those who have lost a loved one. Then vote YES and approve AO 2021-91.

Name: Jeremy Cohen

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 3:16:00 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: I support the proposed mask mandate ordinance for the Anchorage municipality. We all need to do our part to curb the threat of COVID-19, and in no way do I feel wearing a mask in public spaces infringes on my personal freedoms. In addition to being vaccinated, it's the least I can do.

Name: Carolyn Melms

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 3:25:42 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I support instituting a mask mandate for indoor locations in Anchorage until Covid infections are significantly reduced. It is reasonable that all but those with a valid medical exemption be required to wear an appropriate mask when entering a public building. We need to do this to protect the public from the spread of the Covid 19 virus. Our hospitals are in crisis and it is irresponsible to ignore recommended mitigation measures.

Name: Barbara Carlson

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 3:26:05 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 4. C. AO 2021-90

Testimony: I write in support of AO 2021-90, an ordinance of the Anchorage Assembly amending Anchorage Municipal Code regarding management authority over meeting premises and other municipal property used by the Assembly, Boards, or Commissions. Working together for the people of Anchorage requires clear laws for guidance. When there is confusion it can and does prevent straightforward communication among the participants and the public to the detriment of not only day to day business, but also to critically time-sensitive matters, such as emergency orders. Please act to quickly remedy this imbalance of the separated powers to help facilitate smooth operating procedures for the good of the people of Anchorage. | Barbara Carlson | Anchorage (Sand Lake)

Name: Colin Mcdonald

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 3:29:47 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO No.2021-91

Testimony: ""My name is Colin Tass'aq McDonald, I am a resident who lives on Cordova St in Fairview. Assembly Members Chris Constant is my representative. | | I am writing in support of AO No. 2021-91. I appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony because I do not feel safe testifying in person in a room full of people who refuse to get vaccinated and do not want to wear a mask. | | I support AO 2021-91 because it is the sensible thing to do under our circumstances. Given the fact that our hospitals have had to implement crisis standards of care and Alaska's COVID19 case rate is now the highest in the nation, with our average rate of daily new infections over the last week was more than double the national average according to the New York Times, I feel a mask mandate is the least we can do to help reduce the rapid rate of COVID19 infections in our city at a time when our healthcare workers desperately need it. We need to be good relatives to our healthcare workers, our friends, families, and neighbors, and a mask is a small inconvenience to bear for the sake of reducing the number of hospitalizations our city is experiencing. | | Although I am only writing on behalf of myself, professionally the organization I work for brings large groups of people together from around the state for high school interscholastic events. It would be safer for everyone at these events if there was a mask mandate in place especially considering a lot of our attendees will be traveling back to their home communities once the event is over. We do not want a state-wide super-spreader event to take place and the support of the municipality of Anchorage would go a long way in helping us enforce mask wearing at our events. | | For the sake of saving lives and helping our healthcare workers, who are bearing the brunt of this pandemic, I urge you to pass this mask ordinance. I certainly would feel safer around town if I knew that we were all doing our part to reduce the spread of COVID19. | | Please pass this mask ordinance. | | Thank you, | Colin Tass'aq McDonald |

Name: Thomas Kempton

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 3:38:59 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: Please pass AO 2021-91. | We must do something to lessen the spread of this virus. Masking is a simple activity that has been proven in other jurisdictions to slow the spread.

Name: Greg Russell

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 3:42:57 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: As a Registered Nurse with 38 years of experience I strongly support the mandating of masks and other public health safety measures during this pandemic. I would like to thank those assembly members that are acting in good faith to protect the public health.

Name: Kirsten Cohen

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 3:42:57 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: A0 2021-91

Testimony: I support the proposed mask mandate ordinance for the Anchorage municipality. We all need to do our part to curb the threat of COVID-19, and in no way do I feel wearing a mask in public spaces infringes on my personal freedoms. In addition to being vaccinated, it's the least I can do.

Name: Carol Beckenbach

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 3:54:09 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO-2021-91

Testimony: I am against a mask and snitch mandate. |I have an autoimmune disease and I take responsibility for my own health. I supplement a healthy diet with vitamins and minerals, get plenty of rest, exercise, reduce stress and I don't smoke. |A mask is not able to keep out a virus any more than my pants are able to hold in a fart. |Masks are filthy, unconstitutional and I have the right to not wear one. |None of you are doctors and have no business telling me how to take care of my health. |I will not comply with a pointless mandate!

Name: Carol Beckenbach

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 3:55:38 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO-2021-91

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Name: Kristen Bush

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 3:59:35 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 2021-91

Testimony: Hello my name is Kristen Bush and, through the chair, I would like to apologize for some of the testifiers who made disparaging and cruel comments to some of you, as those words have no place being iterated and I was angry and disgusted by their behavior. Moving on, I would like to say I am misrepresented by the majority of the Assembly. Why do I think you all collectively represent me? Math. Your votes on issues like these have historically all been a result that I did not agree with and I urge a No vote on this ordinance. If I wear a mask anyplace, it's because I CHOSE to or I was FORCED to in order to acquire medical care or fly. Mask wearing comes at great personal sacrifice for me to do so. Choice about what medical equipment I will use is my right and should not be determined by government. A business can require masks for entry if they want. I can then choose whether I want to put one on or I can choose to drive out to Wasilla where I can go about my life the way I CHOOSE. You want to FORCE businesses into being the bully for you. Again! WEAPONIZING BUSINESS AGAINST COMMUNITY. Haven't they had enough hoops to jump through? You want to create a police state over a mask!! And waste more money and waste police or "mask police" time. Pitting neighbors against each other. Let people CHOOSE. My personal difficulty wearing a mask is myriad. I have had three anxiety attacks wearing a mask in public and once on a plane. Because I am a trauma survivor. I have PTSD and what this mask does to me? You absolutely cannot fathom. The anxiety, the suffocating fear and my fight or flight has kicked in. I've been asymptomatic for "startle response" for over 15 years. But since donning a mask? No longer. If someone walks beside me in a store? Or they turn corner in my living room and I'm not expecting them? I kick in with startle response. In my own home!! Because of the after effects when I wear a mask for any length of time out in the community. I have had to return to medication for anxiety and depression from masking. I haven't taken meds like that for over 15 years! This masking ordinance has no business being passed. You are discounting and ignoring tens of thousands of us that have serious medical consequences from masks and we need medical liberty. You can throw a hundred amendments at this thing but the bottom line is this: my body, my choice, my health conditions do not count for less than someone else! So those who do not want to comply, we don't need your special amendments, we simply don't believe in the need for this ordinance at all. COVID absolutism is destroying our community in more ways than a case count. Open your eyes and ears and understand that! I WILL NOT COMPLY! Kristen Bush

Name: Joclyn Reilly

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 4:04:43 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: Please mandate masks indoors. Thank you for your service.

Name: Rikki Burns-Riley

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 4:27:58 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Ordinance No. AO 2021-91 Mask Mandate

Testimony: Masks should be mandated indoors anywhere in Anchorage. Due to the extremely high rates of COVID-19, highly contagious Delta variant, and the healthcare/essential workers and vulnerable individuals it should be a top priority.

Name: Robin Gray

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 4:29:42 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask ordinance

Testimony: Please pass the mask ordinance for our city. Masks have scientifically shown to lower the spread of covid. With our hospitals at near capacity we need to everything we can to lower the case rate. Masks are the simplest and least invasive way! Thank you!

Name: Thomas Brooks

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 4:38:06 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 2021-91

Testimony: I'd like to come to the meeting and testify in person, but the assembly gallery area is occupied by intimidating people not wearing masks. With the record setting pace of covid infections in our community, I am hunkered down. One day I wish to resume freely visiting Anchorage public meetings, stores, shops and restaurants, but not until the danger is greatly reduced. || One would think everyone would care enough for each other to wear masks during this difficult time. Unfortunately, that is not the case. The safety of the community is in grave danger, as evidenced by the dire situation at our hospitals. || I applaud the proposed ordinance as a way to save lives and restore a sense of safety and normalcy to our community. || Thank you. || Tom Brooks | Rogers Park

Name: Rick Sinnott

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 4:38:47 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91 Regarding Public Health Safety Measures for the COVID-19 Pandemic

Testimony: I am strongly in favor of the measures that the Assembly has proposed. Mayor Bronson is not doing his job to protect public safety. Anchorage is in a far worse place now than it was last winter, during the previous peak of infections. I believe that is largely because the municipality has no mandated mask or physical distancing standards. I am also in favor of mandatory vaccinations, with exemptions for health reasons or for legitimate religious beliefs. | |

Name: Rick Sinnott

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 4:48:34 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-92

Testimony: I am strongly in favor of this ordinance. Mayor Bronson is seriously abusing his power by repeatedly subverting the Assembly's right to approve department heads. If a person is not qualified for the job, the mayor shouldn't be allowed to appoint them to the position ""temporarily"" for an indefinite period. |

Name: Douglas Molyneaux

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 4:49:02 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: 4.A.1.Ordinance No. AO 2021-91(S)

Testimony: I am in favor of establishing a mask mandate proposed by Assemblywoman Meg Zaletel that requires all individuals to wear masks or face coverings over their noses and mouths when they are indoors in public settings or communal spaces outside the home; or outdoors at large crowded public events. My reason for favoring the proposal is simply that I trust the recommendation shared by the majority of medical professionals that have already given testimony, a recommendation that is shared by my own health care providers. | Thank you for your service to our community - except for Assemblywoman Jamie Allard, who should be barred from the Assembly for her abuse of the system and of public trust.

Name: Katie McDowell

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 4:50:42 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: To whom it may concern, | | I am completely opposed to AO 2021-91. | | Plain and simple....do your jobs. Your job is to uphold the Alaska Constitution, The Constitution of the United States and the Charter. Having said that, there is NO way this unconstitutional mandate could ever pass. None of you are doctors. You are not my doctor. I do not consent and I will not comply. I have not worn a mask this entire ""pandemic"" and I will not start now. Decisions regarding my health are MINE and mine alone to make and you certainly will NOT EVER make a health decision for my child. | | I would also like to state that only a weak coward would put forth such an ordinance and then hide from the very people who you wish to force it on. If your mask works so well, which you want all of us to believe, then you can surely be present at all meetings. I'm pretty certain that you are vaccinated as well so that just adds to the absurdity. | | Masks do not work, we all know that. If you need that false sense of security, by all means, wear a mask or never come outside your home again, I don't care either way. You can continue to live in your little bubble of fear that's YOUR choice. This is America and I get to have my choice whether you agree with it or not. | | Thank you.

Name: Marka Anne Brooks

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 4:51:01 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-90

Testimony: I wish to provide testimony on AO 2021-90 the proposed mask mandate. I support the mandate as a tool to begin to bring the COVID-19 pandemic under control and lesson the pressure on Anchorage's hospitals. I believe masking will slow the infection rates and death rates resulting from the Delta variant that is in our community. The previous administration understood the importance of our medical facilities to all Alaska and made decisions to protect the capacity. The current approach is not slowing the spread or reducing the death rate. In the absence of anything else, I believe we need to take this step. We can put sidebars on it to remove the mandates when the infection rate decreases, but something needs to be done. I also urge quick action rather than prolong the pain and suffering of Anchorage and Alaska residents. Thanks for reading this and thanks for the important work that you all do on behalf of Anchorage residents.

Name: Brian Daggett

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 4:52:59 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask Mandates

Testimony: They work please pass.

Name: Judy Williams

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 4:56:00 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Sept. 28, 2021 meeting, Item 14.L, AO 2021-91.

Testimony: Masks work. I can't understand how anti-maskers can be so angry about being required to wear a mask until this is over, and yet so oblivious to three-quarters of a million dead Americans.

Name: Doug Miller

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 4:59:24 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: AO 2021-91

Testimony: A mask requirement just makes sense. Even if it reduced the spread of the virus only by 5 percent, that is a lot. If nothing else, it postpones the spread of a new variant, giving us more time to research ways to fight that one. Given the number of breakthrough cases, getting a vaccine but not wearing a mask is like putting on a suit of armor but not putting on the helmet. And make no mistake: this is a battle!

Name: Margaret Pohjola

Date/Time Submitted: 10/7/2021 5:00:20 PM

For Assembly Meeting On: October 7, 2021 - Special Meeting

Agenda Item #: Mask mandate

Testimony: I support a mask mandate to help stop the spread of covid. | Qu yana