

4/8/2021 meeting between Utah Parents United, Ash McMurray (Legal Counsel) and Brittney Cummins. Brittney Cummins is Senior Advisor of Education. For the past six years, she has served as a member of the Utah State Board of Education, filling a Vice Chair position for the last four years.

Dr. Mason:

- Death rate from COVID in school children is just less than two deaths per 100,000 confirmed cases. .002% morbidity rate, which is less than the flu.
- The hospitalization rate for school-aged children is less than 8 per 100,000. .008% hospitalization rate.
- The Utah State Health Department announced that the risk to children is greater from flu than it is from COVID.
- Are we going to mask kids for the flu? That's the greatest danger to kids right now.
- The governor announced that all people over the age of 16 have had an opportunity to be vaccinated. Teachers have had the opportunity to be vaccinated.
- The governor announced by the end of April everyone who wants the opportunity to be vaccinated will be vaccinated.
- Why are we masking kids in school?

Brittney Cummins:

- ***The data does show that the impact on children of COVID-19 is not as significant as it is on the adult population. Nobody is countering that data.***
- ***The crux of the concern for the governor is making sure we have sufficient vaccines available for the entire Utah population.***

Dr. Mason:

- The governor announced all who wanted to be vaccinated would be.
- What risk does the vaccine pose to our youth, particularly the female reproductive system?
- Even though the FDA hasn't approved the vaccine, why are we shouldering our children with the responsibility of protecting people?
- Why does it matter if the adults are vaccinated? Can't our children just go to school?
- The death rate from flu is greater than the death rate from COVID for children.
- I can see no reason that kids should be vaccinated.
- Adults over the age of 65 should be vaccinated. I see no reason for them to be vaccinated if they are perfectly healthy. I personally have been vaccinated.
- Trying to protect kids is a fool's errand. Whom are we protecting?

Brittney Cummins:

- ***It's mostly about making sure that the populations of people who want the vaccine have access to it.***
- ***There are many adults who want to be vaccinated who haven't been able to yet.***
- ***Give that another month to make sure that those who want it and who need it can engage in the community in a safe way.***

These video segment captions were shortened and paraphrased to highlight main points.

Dr. Mason:

- Children are less likely to carry the virus home. Adult to adult transmission is much more common.
- What group are we trying to protect by masking children?

Brittney Cummins:

- ***Any of the adult population who have not had access to the vaccine yet.***

Dr. Mason:

- What group is at high risk that you're worried about?
- Everyone who is 65 and over who wants to have the vaccine has had it.
- A good percentage of the people in those upper high risk populations have received the vaccine.
- **We're masking children to try to protect the people whom we can't get to.**
- ??????????????
- It literally makes no sense.
- Why did you unmask the adults? Why are we shouldering our children with that burden?

Brittney Cummins:

- ***The state legislature passed a bill. It was a compromise coming to a date. It was an arbitrary date based on a conversation with the legislature.***

Dr. Mason:

- Why are we not unmasking children if adults are the greater risk to the population you're trying to protect?
- Why are we not unmasking children at the same time that we unmask adults?

Tracy Henderson, Esq:

- From a legal standpoint it's arbitrary. The data doesn't support it.

Dr. Mason:

- All of these political decisions are being made and physicians are wondering what is going on. Are we looking at what makes sense?
- We're still going to mask the kids that don't transmit the COVID to these adults at risk. Why are we doing this?

Tracy Henderson, Esq:

- 23 studies that the masks don't even work.

Dr. Mason:

- Fauci's original statement was nobody should wear a mask because it doesn't do anything and it can be harmful if the mask gets touched. What group of people would be most likely to handle a mask that they wear all day in school?

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Nichole Mason (President of Utah Parents United):

- What our doctors are saying makes sense to us, but what the government is saying and what our school superintendent's are saying don't make sense.

Brittney Cummins:

- ***There is a lot of conflicting scientific information on all sides. Evidence has shown that the spread of illness has been reduced in school populations.***

Dr. Mason:

- I don't think there are any studies that show that mask wearing has reduced the incidence of COVID-19 in children.

Tracy Henderson, Esq:

- We as parents want to choose. We don't think it's the government's position. Utah statutes say you shall respect the parent's wishes.
- We're seriously pitted against the school board. Iron county school district arresting teenagers who walk onto campus because they had permission from their parents to walk on maskless.
- A superintendent stated we will use whatever force necessary....to do what...to a child? How do you reconcile Utah statutes for parents rights against what is happening in our schools?

Brittney Cummins:

- ***What's the statute?***

Tracy Henderson, Esq:

- **62A-4A201 - A parent retains fundamental right and duty to exercise primary control.**
- **They're not respecting parents' rights. What are our legal rights? How do we stop this?**
- **All we're asking is that our parents' rights to choose be respected.**
- **The people who are afraid can mask their children; they can distance learn.**

Brittney Cummins:

- ***There's all kinds of policy that any school or district is going to enforce that is enforceable by law. Policy and educational statutes are all enforceable. It's a statewide health department.***

Tracy Henderson, Esq:

- No policy of any organization can violate the law.
- Under the 14th amendment, you violate that fundamental liberty... we have problems.
- Under the 14th amendment you're going to be held to a strict scrutiny standard and you're not going to meet that standard with the data.

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