

**JOHN RAY CLEMMONS**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 55

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425 REP. JOHN LEWIS WAY NORTH  
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**State of Tennessee**  
**House of Representatives**

**COMMITTEES**  
CIVIL JUSTICE  
EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION  
HEALTH

**SUBCOMMITTEES**  
CIVIL JUSTICE  
K-12 EDUCATION

September 16, 2021

Governor Bill Lee  
State of Tennessee  
Tennessee State Capitol, First Floor  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

RE: Executive Order 84

Gov. Lee:

I write to respectfully request that you immediately retract Executive Order 84 or, in the alternative, enter an executive order that effectively terminates Executive Order 84.

Our state is currently in the grips of COVID-19, and our people are suffering through a continued and worsening pandemic. Tennessee is currently faring worse than any other state in the Union. The delta variant is impacting school-aged children in record numbers. School systems have had to close across the state. Teachers have died. Your express allowance of parents to opt their children out of universal requirements for facial coverings is having a profoundly negative effect and unnecessarily, proactively places our children at risk.


The substance of Executive Order 84 exceeds your legal authority under your statutory emergency powers and goes against the clear intent of the statute cited in your order. The issuance of Executive Order 84 was reckless and demonstrated an alarmingly callous disregard to the children of Tennessee, especially those who are immunosuppressed or immunocompromised. Your order violates the Rehabilitation Act and Americans with Disability Act when considered in light of disabled children. On this point, I am confident that federal courts will not view Executive Order 84 favorably, and I fear even more federal lawsuits will be forthcoming should you not take immediate appropriate action to terminate Executive Order 84.

You have the opportunity to avoid further risk of harm to the children of Tennessee, save taxpayers' money, and simply do the right thing here. Tennesseans are looking to you for leadership and many school systems are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to act in the best interest of their students. You know that masks work and that they are most effective when worn by everyone. You have said as much.

Please take the simple, responsible step here and immediately retract Executive Order 84 or terminate it with a subsequent order.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



John Ray Clemmons  
*State Representative*