



**The Fairfax County Democratic Committee
Commends Select Senators from Fairfax County for their Recognition of the
Importance of Maintaining Local School Board Control of Mitigation Measures
During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Whereas,

The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic required the enactment of various transmission mitigation measures in Fairfax County and worldwide to limit the spreading of the virus, and its emerging variants, and protect vulnerable populations.

During the February 2022 legislative session, Republicans advanced SB739 which would remove the ability of local school boards to use mask mandates as a method of COVID-19 transmission mitigation. Nearly all Fairfax County Democratic Senators voted against this bill due to its conflict with CDC guidance and recommendations from most medical and pediatric associations and its lack of a sunset clause. Passage of this bill prevents local school boards from using mask mandates as part of mitigation measures against any future COVID-19 variants, or against any future pandemics, regardless of how dangerous they might be to students and staff.

The March 5, 2022 Eleventh Congressional District Democratic Convention ratified a resolution commending “Those local Virginia jurisdiction supervisors, councilpersons, school officials and parents who are continuing to comply with CDC guidelines during the Covid-19 pandemic” and urged “all other local Virginia jurisdiction supervisors, councilpersons, and school officials to comply with CDC guidelines during the Covid-19 pandemic.”

Bolstering the ability of our local school board to take the necessary measures to protect students and staff has been a priority of this committee since the November 2020 resolution in support of the Fairfax County School Board.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Fairfax County Democratic Committee:

1. Reaffirms its commitment to supporting the Fairfax County School Board in its ongoing efforts to keep students and staff safe.
2. Officially thanks the following Senators for their opposition to a bill that makes it more difficult for the Fairfax County School Board to keep students and staff safe:

Senator Dick Saslaw
Senator Adam Ebbin
Senator Barbara Favola
Senator Janet Howell

Senator Jennifer Boysko
Senator Scott Surovell
Senator Dave Marsden
Senator George Barker

PASSED and APPROVED on this 22nd day of March 2022.