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August 20, 2021

Honorable Philip D. Murphy  
Governor of the State of New Jersey  
The State House  
P.O. Box 001  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Re: Executive Order 251  
Uniform Masking Policy

Dear Governor Murphy:

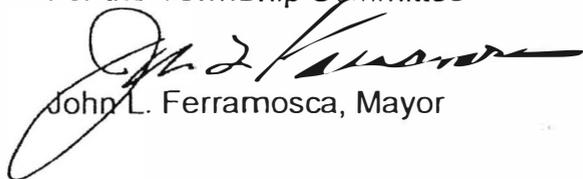
I am writing to you in my capacity as the Mayor of the Township of Hanover and on behalf of the members of the Township Committee. The governing body is in receipt of a letter to you from the President and Vice President of the Hanover Township Board of Education requesting that Executive Order 251 be repealed, and that school boards be given the authority to make face masks optional thus allowing parents and families to decide what is best for their children. However, should the Township's Board of Health advise the Board of Education of a pronounced increase in the number of Delta variant cases in the Township, the Board of Education will support the mandatory wearing of face masks.

Undoubtedly, the issue of requiring face masks in schools for students, faculty and visitors has been controversial and emotional for parents and school board members. The Township Committee fully appreciates and understands the enormous responsibility placed on you and our State health care professionals in making decisions that protect the health, safety and welfare of our citizens. Conversely, we also understand the position of the Board of Education in wanting to maintain a degree of flexibility in making its own decision about face masks.

The Township of Hanover has and will always remain a staunch advocate of the home rule doctrine and the ability of local governments to make decisions that are best for its constituents. In this regard, the Township Committee endorses the request of the Board of Education to make face masks optional. We hope you will give the request serious consideration.

In conclusion, please be assured that no matter what decision you render, we fully support your efforts in combating the "enemy," that is, COVID-19 and the Delta variant.

Respectfully  
For the Township Committee



John L. Ferramosca, Mayor

cc: Township Committee Members  
Fred C. Semrau, Esq.  
Dr. Stanley Zaborowski, President of the Board of Health  
Dr. Carlos Perez, Health Officer  
Stephen Furda, President and Members  
of the Hanover Township Board of Education