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October 15, 2020

Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner and State Health Officer  
Georgia Department of Public Health  
2 Peachtree Street, NW, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142

Dear Dr. Toomey:

On behalf of Bulloch County Schools and its stakeholders, I respectfully request that you immediately revise the Georgia Department of Public Health's Administrative Order for Public Health (Administrative Order) to include language that allows PK-12 students in the state "who are wearing a mask at the time of close contact in a school setting with a COVID-19-positive individual, and who then continue to wear a mask when not able to maintain a six-foot distance from others, and who also remain asymptomatic during the typically designated quarantine period, be allowed to remain in school for the sake of their academic, extracurricular, and social-emotional wellbeing." While we are all struggling through this pandemic together and regularly adjust to conditions of uncertainty, citizens of our local community, particularly those who desire to responsibly exercise the fundamentals of liberty so dear to all of us, are suffering, and the future of our children's learning and overall wellbeing are at risk. I ask for your help on behalf of our students and our community.

In addition, I respectfully request that any Administrative Order, current or future, regardless of its language, be equally and appropriately enforced across the state. There is regular mention in our community of other schools and school districts across this state that are in open defiance of your Administrative Order. Understandable questions are posed to me and our locally elected board members as to how others are allowed to get away with this while we in Bulloch County Schools, who have respectfully and responsibly adhered to your Administrative Order and associated governor's executive orders, are punished for being adherent and transparent. It is my understanding that these violations are being conducted directly and indirectly across the state and even in this local community. Allowing this to occur causes significant public dissent and disrupts Bulloch County Schools' ability to fulfill its mission. Again, I ask for your help on behalf of our students and our community.

The Bulloch County Board of Education took action on October 8, 2020, to provide me with direction to modify quarantine protocol in Bulloch County Schools to allow for the spirit and intent of what I have described above in my Administrative Order language revision request to you. Since that time, we received your letter which states that we are out of compliance with your Administrative Order and requests that our board immediately rescind its action. It is my understanding that our board will meet on October 22, 2020, and may discuss this matter, but in the meantime I have temporarily suspended any further action that puts anyone in Bulloch County Schools in violation of your Administrative Order. While I cannot speak for what future

action our board will take, I believe I understand the spirit and intent of their decision and I also believe they are supportive of my two requests to you as outlined above.

Thank you for all that you do for the citizens of Georgia, especially during the times that we currently face. I appreciate your sincere and prompt consideration of this request, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CW', is positioned above the typed name.

Charles G. Wilson, Jr.  
Superintendent

Cc: Governor Brian Kemp, State of Georgia  
Representative Jan Tankersley, Georgia House District 160  
Senator Billy Hickman, Georgia Senate District 4  
Dr. Rosemarie Parks, Southeast Region Health Director, Georgia Department of Public Health  
Chairman Michael Sparks, Bulloch County Board of Education