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Ranking Member:
Health & Insurance Committee
Member:
Appropriations Committee
Education Committee

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Tri-County Health Department
6162 South Willow Drive
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August 16, 2021

It has come to my attention that a mask mandate for K12 students is being considered by Tri-County Health Department. My understanding is that this consideration is in response to requests by some residents of a single school district in Arapahoe County.

There is currently no emergency declaration in place and Tri-County has not independently determined that such an order is necessary based on science. Therefore, Tri-County is being asked by this small group of residents to leverage its authority to impose their will on the K12 residents of all three counties.

Without an emergency declaration in place, a mask requirement is a matter for local school boards to consider. Health departments, like the Supreme Court, are established as disinterested agencies that act on objective principles. I urge Tri-County not to act in response to public pressure. To do so would be to redefine the mission of Tri-County Health Department as an unelected political body.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Baisley", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Mark Baisley
Douglas and Teller Counties