



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Vermont State House

115 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05602

February 23, 2021

Cynthia Rosen-Malter
57 Fern Hill
Dorset, VT 05251

Dear Cynthia:

Thank you for taking time to contact my office and for thoughtfully sharing the experience of your family during this pandemic.

I hear your concerns on the severe impact this pandemic is having on our children. This past year has been challenging for all Vermonters, particularly our kids who have lost many of the resources they need to thrive. In particulate, a sense of connection with their peers.

Covid has laid everything bare, and we cannot go back, we must go forward and work to recover stronger. Addressing the educational and mental health resources your grandchildren deserve is a top priority of mine.

Thank you again for sharing your story. I will carry it with me as I work with Legislative leaders and Governor Scott. I am deeply committed to elevating the voices of Vermonters, and I hope you will not hesitate to contact my office again.

I wish you good health as we work together to ensure Vermont recovers stronger from this pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Molly R. Gray'.

Molly R. Gray
Lieutenant Governor of Vermont

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My name is Cynthia Rosen-Malter, I live in Dorset. I am writing in the hopes that my concerns will be heard and acted upon in Montpelier. I am sure you hear a lot and I am sorry to bother you; but this has to do with my grandchildren who have been stuck at home in front of a computer for almost a year with basically no friend/social interaction because of their mother's pre-existing condition. As the State considers guidelines for when groups get vaccinated, they are forgetting about the needs of not only people who can not work because of their co-morbidity but also our children. My daughter is Type-1 diabetic. She is also a teacher who not only had to take leave from teaching this year, thus unemployed, but has had to keep her children isolated. To reiterate: they have been isolated from their peers for close to a year now. My granddaughter should be getting OT services but we can not risk her going into school, and other than our family pod, no one comes into my daughter's home since the schools shut down. As a family, together, we have chosen to exercise extreme caution for the last year. But my granddaughter's mental health is being affected as exhibited by an exaggerated level

of frustration and a significant increase in tics. I am sure partly due to sitting isolated in front of a screen all day. ACCORDING TO the JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION "The data is compelling: people with Covid-19 and diabetes, whether type 1 or type 2, have three to four times higher risk of severe illness, compared to people without diabetes. Based on this new data, JDRF urges the CDC and health officials across the nation to prioritize all people with diabetes for COVID vaccines." The American Diabetes Association concurs with this statement. Aaron J. Kowalkski, Ph.D., President and CEO The important phrase "whether type 1 or type 2, have three to four times higher risk of severe illness, compared to people without diabetes". How does the State of Vermont not even mention type 1 diabetes when talking of scheduling people with pre-existing conditions that seriously compromise their health resistance to this virus? According to the American Diabetes Assoc. my daughter is at greater risk of sepsis than type 2 diabetics. My daughter's decision to keep the children at home was heartbreaking. My grandchildren are dreaming of being able to see other children. At present my only sentiment is that I know you have a lot on your platter, but has the State of Vermont forgotten our kids...or at least those who are isolated as a result of their parents medical condition that Vermont seems to have chosen

to exclude from considerations
for inoculations prior to the
general population? Please
don't forget the children of those
who are sadly high risk and
already have an extra burden to
bear. With concern, Cynthia