

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

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MEMORANDUM

March 23, 2023

To: Members, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

From: Select Subcommittee Staff

Re: Hearing on The Consequences of School Closures: Intended and Unintended”

On Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 10:00 AM ET in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office building, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic will hold a hearing titled “The Consequences of School Closures: Intended and Unintended.”

I. BACKGROUND:

Beginning in March 2020, schools across the United States were closed in response to COVID-19, with in-person teaching replaced by virtual courses through the end of the school year. While some schools allowed in-person instruction in the fall of 2020, others remained online or implemented hybrid programs through the 2021-2022 academic years. These closures had a significant negative impact on children, as many struggled academically and became especially susceptible to mental health issues. Accordingly, the public health decision to close schools in response to COVID-19 was a catastrophic failure for American students and families that will likely be felt for years to come.

II. HEARING PURPOSE:

This hearing will examine the intended and unintended consequences of school closures.

III. WITNESSES:

Mr. David Zweig

Author and Investigative Journalist

The Atlantic, New York Magazine, The Free Press

Ms. Tracy Beth Høeg, M.D., Ph.D.

Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Specialist

Epidemiologist

Private Practice Physician

Ms. Virginia Gentles
Director
Education Freedom Center
Independent Women's Forum