

December 7th, 2022

Dear Rock Steady Boxing Class Attendee,

I, Richard Ortman, a part-time caretaker for my 87 year old grandfath[REDACTED] and his physical assistant at the Firelands' Rock Steady Parkinson's boxing class, am reaching out to you, also an attendee of the class, in an appeal to participate with me in a petition to end Firelands' current policies for mask wearing in response to the Covid-19 virus. In presenting this appeal, I am aware that I am undoubtedly appealing to some who currently support the ongoing masking policies; my only hope is that you will charitably allow me to present my case to you regarding the science and morality of the matter, as detailed by the contents herein this packet, before you decide to disregard my appeal.

As I hope all will be able to see, there is an immensely strong scientific and moral case to be made for the end of the current masking mandates, and which if not acted upon, will result in the continued long-run degradation and disgrace of America's medical institutions, and the perpetuation of political tyrannies which actively threaten the very civil and religious liberties which we hold dear.

From conversations that I have already had with Firelands' administrative staff, it is apparent to me that it is not merely irrationality birthed from unsound scientific claims that is resulting in the current prolonged making policies, but also the intimidating shadow of U.S. government authorities; this is why your participation in this petition is of such great importance. When leaders and decision makers face formidable forces of authority from above them, they regularly will give in to their demands, even if the demands are morally wrong or scientifically unsound, simply because such leaders lack a base of known support that has their back in resistance to the demands. Through this plan of petition, you have the opportunity to become such a base of support for the Firelands' leaders, to let them know that, as a participant in their programs, you stand behind them in doing the right thing, you encourage them to do the right thing, and you're supplying them with the necessary, sound science and rational argumentation to do so.

I would like to state clearly and directly now, that this appeal and the statements made regarding "Firelands' administrative staff" in this letter are not in

reference to our immediate therapists and instructors of our Rock Steady class, such as [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. Though they do have their own independent roles to play in the Firelands institution, they are not the primary decision makers regarding the overall masking policies that Firelands currently holds, and they have been more than gracious and kind in working to facilitate better therapy conditions for my grandfather and other attendees, given the circumstances. The aim of this appeal and petition is to seek the broader redemption of the Firelands Health systems from scientific and political irrationalities, by reaching upward to the leaders and decision makers who are truly responsible for perpetuating the current circumstances.

The only thing required for your participation in this effort is to sign the letter of petition following this introductory letter, entitled: "Statement of Petition for Repeal of Fireland's Masking Policies"; it is a simple letter affirming that, according to your own personal beliefs, you disagree with current masking policies and that you support the petition to repeal current Firelands' masking policies for the Lee C. Jewett Sports Medicine Center. I hope that after your review of the enclosed material, you will feel emboldened and encouraged to enter the ring and take a "rock steady" stand against medical and political tyranny. If you decide to participate, please sign and return that letter to me, Richard, by **December 20th, 2022** so that I may include it with the final appeal made to Firelands' senior administration.

I'd like to conclude this letter to you on a personal note; I recently made an appeal to Firelands' staff on behalf of my grandfather for the ability to remove his mask during our therapy sessions; the basis for the request being that in multiple ways the mask inhibited his already limited ability to participate effectively and focus during the therapy sessions. I'll never forget the moment when we returned to the boxing room with his mask off the first day after this allowance was given; not only was he clearly of a better disposition and ability to participate with his mask removed, but the atmosphere and energy of the entire room changed when everyone could see his full smile and mouth as he laughed and made jokes. Comments were immediately made about how cute his smile was, and the energy and attitude of everyone in the room was immediately more positive as he gleefully laughed and participated in the exercises without his face veiled.

It is my hope that one day soon, through the power of our voices being raised

in support of Firelands' leaders, that we can all come to a boxing class session where everyone's smiles and laughs can be seen and heard just like my grandfather's, and the glory of God can be viewed in the faces of His creatures once again; no longer irrationally smothered and hidden from one another by medical and political tyranny.

I urge you with the strongest of sentiment to please consider the science and rationality detailed in the enclosed material, and to join me in lifting it, and your voice of support, up to the Firelands' leaders. If in the end there is something hindering you from pledging your support, I'd be glad to discuss these matters further with you in hopes that I can mitigate the hindrance. Please feel free to contact me at my phone number provided below in such a case.

Sincerely,

Richard Ortman

