

**From:** [Peel, Jackson](#)  
**To:** [Press](#)  
**Subject:** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: House Democratic Caucus Members Respond to Judge Cooper's Ruling Against DeSantis Attempt to Ban Mask Requirements in Schools  
**Date:** Friday, August 27, 2021 2:05:27 PM

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August 27, 2021

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**House Democratic Caucus Members Respond to Judge Cooper's Ruling Against DeSantis Attempt to Ban Mask Requirements in Schools**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – Today, Leon County Circuit **Judge John Cooper** ruled that **Governor DeSantis** had overstepped his authority when his executive order attempted to ban mask requirements in Florida public schools.

Members of House Democratic Caucus issued the following statements:

**Co-Leader Evan Jenne (D- Hollywood)** stated, “We should not be surprised by today’s decision that no one, not even the Governor, is above the law in Florida. The operation of our public schools constitutionally belongs to the school boards. This was overreach, pure and simple. I hope the Governor will take the time to pause to move back to his early position that the best government to make local decisions is local government. That was working for us and it could work for us again. There is no reason to waste taxpayer dollars appealing today’s decision which upheld constitutional separation of powers and upheld local decision-making.”

**Representative Fentrice Driskell (D- Tampa)** added, “Parents and schools just won a major fight against the Governor. We all need the freedom to make sure that our children are healthy and safe in the classroom. It is our state’s job to support the safety of its children; not prevent us and school from protecting them. I’m sure the Governor will waste no time in appealing this decision at public expense to try and tighten his grip on local government. I wish he would just go back to campaigning for President and let this decision stand.

**Representative Michael Grieco (D- Miami Beach)** said, “The court did not have to go through legal contortion in order to come to a conclusion supported by precedent, science and common sense. The judge followed the law, something I wish everyone else in government would do, especially when we are talking about the health of children and educators.”

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