

(U) #ParentRising: National Walk-Out Week to Protest Vaccine, Mask Mandates

Frustration over COVID-19 vaccine mandates is rising. During the first week of school at Champlain Valley Union High School in Hinesburg, VT, two community members met the returning students and staff with signs in protest of the indoor mask requirement. The pair intends to participate in “#ParentRising,” a nationwide protest against school COVID-19 protocols from September 13 – 17, 2021.

#ParentRising, also referred to as “Walk Out Week,” is calling on parents and educators across the U.S. to participate in a coordinated week-long event focused on peaceful non-compliance, and protest to remind government officials that individuals should have the final say when it comes to their health. Participants in Walk Out Week are urged to keep their children home from school and organize with like-minded parents to show up at local schools and state education departments in peaceful protest.

In some instances, community members are attending Board of Education meetings to voice concerns over masking healthy children and sharing propaganda of how masks are ineffective at stopping the spread of COVID-19. (see attached pamphlet provided by Vermonters Against Unconstitutional Lockdowns & Tyranny (VAULT)).

Below are five actions that are being encouraged by #ParentRising that educators and School Board members should be made aware of:

1. **Attend your school district’s board of education meeting and advocate for parents’ right to choose when it comes to masks and vaccines.** Organize in your local community to have large numbers of parents and educators in attendance prepared to speak to the studies and data.
2. **Email, call and send letters to your elected state officials.** Let them know you oppose mandatory universal masking and mandatory vaccines. Let your elected officials know if either masks or vaccines are mandated that you intend to pull your children and homeschool and/or are willing to walk away from your career.
3. **Plan to strike the week of Sept 13.** Keep your children home from school that week and organize with like-minded parents to show up at local schools and state education departments in peaceful protest.
4. **Speak with your union district reps and union president.** Ask them to protect your right to choose and let them know you will stop paying union dues if they don’t.
5. **Get loud on social media.** Print out your pledge and share pictures of your homeschooling experience and any local protests during the week of Sept. 13 and use hashtags #ParentRising #WalkOutWeek and #MyChildMyChoice.

All material circulated on behalf of this event has been calling for peaceful protests, and activities protected by the First Amendment. Aside from the two community members who demonstrated in Hinesburg, VT recently, it is unknown how many Vermont community members will be participating. If you are aware of any events that are being organized on or near your school grounds, and could endanger the safety of students and staff, please contact your local law enforcement agency.

