

## Debra Thompson

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**From:** Elouise van Swearingen <ellievanswearingen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2020 9:03 AM  
**To:** Assembly  
**Subject:** mandates

To whom it may concern,

I understand there is a meeting tonight to discuss the local mandates in Petersburg. I would like to share concern about a mandate involving required masking in public. I do not believe that any government should tell people what they must wear when they are outside. It feels dangerously close to the middle east and requiring women to wear a hijab. Though the reason for mandating a mask is certainly different than the hijab, it is still the same infringement of our rights and I am sure the middle eastern government would also have a "good reason" for mandating the hijab. I know that I am not alone in my concerns. So to recap, I am in favor of strong encouragement for wearing a mask and for allowing businesses to decide to mandate it in their place of business, I am not in favor of a universal masking mandate in which we are required to mask any time we are out of our house. Thank you

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