

I am writing a testimony as a SoulCycle Instructor in the Bethesda area. The fitness industry has been hit very hard during the pandemic and is one of the remaining industries that is still struggling due to regulations like the indoor face coverings that are government mandated without exceptions.

We reopened in April and were wearing masks to **workout** in. SoulCycle is a very rigorous workout and I have had multiple instances in class where people pass out, need to leave, get sick etc in the past few months and this was not something that regularly happened "pre-mask" days. Due to people not wanting to ride in a mask, the difficulty riding in one and the mandated rule, we have suffered and continue to suffer tremendously in our success as a studio. We noticed an increase in our business and ridership once the mask mandate was lifted in the summer and then we immediately experienced the decline in numbers once it was reinstated in August. As a county we have done our due diligence to get to

99% vaccinated and there should be something to show for that.

More than that, the company I work for, SoulCycle, is now a 100% vaccinated environment in the entire DMV as of October 5th. Every individual who works there and walks in the door as a client is vaccinated, yet, we are still being required to workout in face masks. The frustration is not only there from staff perspective but also from clients. I have so many clients telling me they will not return to my class until they do not have to wear a mask and others confused why they have to wear one if every person in building is knowingly vaccinated and signed up to be there. Our classes are ones that clients of Montgomery County pay for and are voluntarily showing up for. This is quite different from a grocery store or business that does not have a 100% vaccination policy. Every person in our studio pays to be there and has the choice to come or not knowing that masks will not be worn/are optional if wanted. The mandate is directly effecting my livelihood and has been for over a

year and a half, this simple request for the indoor mandate to be left up to private businesses would improve not only my stable income but so many others in the area in my industry.

I am pleading that this mandate is not reversed or in the least that there are exceptions for fitness, private companies, fully vaccinated establishments and therefore can be left up to the businesses themselves to make the call. I am hopeful that it will be taken into serious consideration that private business' and companies in the Montgomery Country area will be given the ability to make their own policies regarding face coverings inside their establishments.

Thank you for your time,

Kallie House