

Mayor GT Bynum  
Tulsa City Council Members  
175 East 2nd Street, Fourth Floor  
Tulsa, OK 74103

Dear Mayor Bynum and Council Members:

On behalf of the state's largest health care associations, we are writing to urge you to support a proposed ordinance requiring the wearing of a mask in public places. Our respective groups represent thousands of physicians, nurses and dentists who are on the front lines in the battle against COVID-19. Our members have seen firsthand the consequences of this dangerous and deadly disease, and now we are asking for your support to help prevent it's spread.

A recent report in *The Lancet* medical journal reviewed 172 separate studies and found that "face mask use could result in a large reduction in risk of infection." And indeed, if you look at the countries that have been most successful in stemming the tide of COVID-19, one thing they have in common is widespread usage of masks among their citizens. Very simply, short of another lockdown or a vaccine becoming available, the wearing of masks represents our best hope of minimizing the deadly impacts of this virus.

No one wants to see another shutdown of the state's economy. But we also cannot simply allow this pandemic to continue bringing suffering and death to thousands of Oklahoma families. Widespread mask usage is the most effective tool we have at our disposal to ensure neither of those scenarios become a reality.

In the wake of the Murrah bombing, Oklahomans came together like never before to support their fellow citizens and the "Oklahoma Standard" was born. Time and again, Oklahomans have shown they are capable of rising to this standard to support the most helpless and at-risk members of our population. We are asking that you help Tulsa live up to the Oklahoma Standard and protect its most vulnerable citizens by supporting the proposed mask mandate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Oklahoma State Medical Association  
Oklahoma Nurses Association  
Oklahoma Dental Association

Tulsa County Medical Society  
Oklahoma County Medical Society  
Oklahoma Osteopathic Association

