I wanted to take the time to urge you to think about our community when deciding what to do about opening schools. This decision should not be made with emotions, fear or political agenda. We need to make a decision based on what is best for society, not just our teachers. I've long thought that the best way to help the poor and underserved was to educate them. Put the money and time into the underserved population when they are young. Teach them to be valuable members of our society by giving them the tools and support they need. I'm confident this was the prevailing thinking up until now. Now with the pandemic we are doing just the opposite. We're taking away from the poor and underserved population. The privileged and supported kids are struggling, but they'll get by. Consider the ones that don't have families backing them at home. The families that aren't advocating for their kids now. I'm here to advocate for them.   Because I care about them yes, but also because I care about the lasting effect not helping them is going to have in the future.

Think about a 1st grader that hasn't had support navigating getting online, participating in class. No support reading to them at night, helping them with their numbers and letters. What will they do next year? Will they go into 2nd grade with all the kids that did have family support, be behind and feel stupid? Or do you hold them back, have them deal with that stigma. Either way is not good?

Think about a 7th grader that is a hard worker, but needs the support of their teacher to help them learn. They are struggling with math and need help, but the math is too hard for their parents to help with. What will they do next year?

Think about a junior in High school that was struggling just to graduate before this all started. Sure they coasted over the finish line of their sophomore year to become a junior. Now their classes have been too hard, and they aren't able to keep up. The support isn't there to will them to keep going, so they stop getting on zoom calls. Start getting marked as absent. What happens next year, do they sign up for senior year knowing they are a year behind, Can they. Do they go back as a junior? Or do they drop out. The world has given up on them, is it time to make it on their own.

I'm not asking for a miracle, I know you can't make this all better by sending kids back to school, but we can put them in a better position. I urge you to look at the science and data. It says that in person instruction is the best choice for our society.   Please help advocate for those that can't advocate for themselves.

Thanks for listening
-Scott