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LD 51, "An Act to Restore Religious and Philosophical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements"

Dear Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

Please restore the religious and philosophical exemptions to immunizations requirements for students and certain healthcare facilities so that more children can have EQUAL ACCESS to education.

A child should not be denied an education because their parents are doing, what the parents believe, is the healthiest and safest immunization approach for their child. I didn't make the decision to not inoculate my kids with ALL the required school vaccines because I'm an "anti-vaxer" or "sticking it the man"; I did it because it is what I believe is the healthiest choice for my children. And please note, many parents decide to inoculate their children with certain vaccines and not all the many, many vaccines recommended or required. This choice is made after extensive research, talking with the child's Doctor and knowing what makes sense for their unique child. Why wouldn't I obtain a medical exemption from my kids Doctor you may be thinking? Because the law states the exemption can only come from certain types of doctors (which doesn't include Naturopathic Doctors – the type of Doctor my children have for their primary care doctor and who are licensed in the state of Maine). This does not make sense to me so I can only assume why Naturopathic Doctors are excluded from this ability.

This is setting my children up for poverty if they can not obtain an education. I will also be entering poverty and losing everything I have, including our home. If my kid's can't go to daycare or school, I will not be able to work. I don't have anyone to babysit (or homeschool) my kids. I do not have any source of money coming in if I can't work. What are we supposed to do?

Thank you for time and please call me to discuss further. Peace.

Sincerely,

Melissa North-Drain