

Arthur DINGLEY
Auburn
LD 51

To: Chairs of the Standing Joint Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, Honorable Sen. Joseph Rafferty and Honorable Rep. Michael Brennan, and members of this Committee.

My name is Arthur Dingley. I am a former attorney, a retired physician, and a lifelong resident of Maine. I live in Auburn. This testimony is submitted IN OPPOSITION to LD 51 and its "philosophical and religious" companions, LD 869, 1098, 1148, 1209, and 1228.

There should be a bucket on the Clerk's desk labeled: "Bills with no chance submitted by Legislators pandering to their unhinged base." These bills should be in it.

There is NO recognized or recognizable religion which forbids its adherents from accepting any vaccine for adults or children. Those claiming otherwise are merely making that claim and attempting to use Freedom of Religion as a Constitutional-sounding counterweight to something they find personally offensive based on conspiracy theories. The closest thing to reality in this objection is the idea that the COVID-19 vaccine contains aborted fetal tissue. It does not.

That leaves "philosophical" objections. Those of us old enough to remember polio and personally know its victims, old enough to wear our smallpox vaccination scars with pride, those who have gladly taken our Hepatitis, influenza, and COVID vaccinations to keep our patients safe, have no wish to accommodate the objections of Maine's miniscule population of "philosophical" objectors, those profoundly selfish and narcissistic few who think that their "rights" should be allowed to Trump science, common sense, and the safety of Maine's children.

When this came before the voters in referendum, it went down in flames by a margin larger than any I remember. Maine voters buried it. Please, put pennies on its eyes.

Thank you for considering these remarks.