

Rachel White
Richmond
LD 51

Dear Education and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share thoughts here and for listening to my perspective.

As a lifelong Mainer and student of public schooling, I am writing to urge you to support LD 51, An Act to Restore Religious and Philosophical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements.

I am writing from a unique perspective. My children were not affected the original LD 798, as they were fully immunized at that time. Yet, I had friends who were harmed by this requirement, whose children lost the right to public education at that time.

I believe that it is wrong to exclude children who have not received the CDC-recommended immunization shots from their right to a public education. This is a form of discrimination based on an unfounded fear that these children would somehow spread disease. In fact, time and time again, it has been shown that these children have almost never been responsible for spreading any disease. Vaccines just don't work that way.

In fact, I personally know of a number of children instead who have been harmed by vaccines. Certainly, that has been the case especially recently with the alarmingly high number of myocarditis, sudden death and strokes among children receiving the Covid-19 experimental vaccine.

To condemn a group of people and to deny them education based on their parents' unwillingness to subject them to potentially harmful shots is a morally reprehensible choice.

Now, I am personally not opposed to all vaccines. I believe they do serve a place in our culture. Yet, I also know that we live in a free society, where freedom of choice and freedom from bodily harm is an essential right to what makes us Americans. To force families to choose between a medical intervention that is risky and potentially permanently damaging to their children and a free education is wrong. I actually personally know of families who got their children a number of vaccines a few years ago so they could stay in public school. A few of those previously-healthy children have developed auto-immune diseases shortly after. This is heartbreaking.

I ask that you look into your hearts, and into your knowledge of reason and practicality, and restore the religious and philosophical exemptions to immunization requirements on all levels of education in Maine. It's the right thing to do for all children.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Rachel Horton White