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**To Members of the Joint Standing Committee on
Education and Cultural Affairs**

**Regarding L.D.s 51, An Act to Restore Religious and Philosophical Exemptions to
Immunization Requirements;
1098, An Act to Restore Religious and Philosophical Exemptions Regarding Immunization
Requirements; and
1209, An Act to Reinstate the Religious and Philosophical Vaccine Exemptions for Private
Schools and Virtual Public Charter Schools.**

April 3, 2023

Sen. Rafferty, Rep. Brennan, and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I'm Penny Morrell, taxpayer and citizen of the Town of Belgrade, Maine.

I support LDs 51, 1098 and 1209.

The 1st Amendment to the Constitution gives us the freedom to exercise our religion without interference from our government. The separation of church and state clause by Thomas Jefferson was intended to keep government out of the church. That is part of what the new world was about, immigrants seeking freedom from government interference in their worship of God.

There is no more important place for this freedom to exist than in the education and welfare of our children. Parents must maintain the right to decide what vaccinations they want to allow students to receive. After all, they remain responsible for the outcomes ultimately and are the guardians of their health.

I urge this committee to vote "ought to pass" on LDs 51, 1098 and 1209. Thank you.

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**To Members of the Joint Standing Committee on
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Regarding L.D.s 869, An Act to Protect Education Access by Prohibiting a Mandate for Schoolchildren for a COVID-19 Vaccine or a Vaccine Under an Emergency Use Authorization; 1148, An Act to Prohibit COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates for Students Enrolled in Public Institutions of Learning; and 1228, An Act to Prohibit Certain Higher Education Institutions from Requiring Vaccines Approved Under Emergency Use Authorization for Admission or Attendance.

April 3, 2023

Sen. Rafferty, Rep. Brennan, and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I'm Penny Morrell, taxpayer and citizen of the Town of Belgrade, Maine.

I support LDs. 869, 1148 and 1228.

We are learning every day more and more about the harm COVID-19 immunizations have inflicted on our kids. Myocarditis is one among others. Science is telling us children do not need the COVID-19 vax because their immune system is more than capable of fighting off the virus. Therefore, it is understandable that parents are asking their lawmakers to speak for them and stop this mandate of unnecessary and potentially harmful vaccinations requirement in order to attend schools.

I urge this committee to vote "ought to pass" on LDs 869, 1148 and 1228. Thank you.