

Amanda Schrader
Pembroke
LD 51

Senator Raferty, Representative Brennan, and Members of the Education and Cultural affairs Committee,

My name is Amanda Schrader, and I am from the town of Pembroke. I am testifying in support of LD51. I would also like to voice my support for LD869, LD 1098, LD1148, LD1209, LD1228.

I have 4 children right now affected by the law that does not allow for religious and philosophical exemptions. My oldest son, age 23, was in his Junior year for Mechanical Engineering at the University of Maine and my daughter, age 20, was in her sophomore year for Mechanical Engineering at the University of Maine. Both had their accounts put on hold and are not allowed to sign up for any more classes at the University.

My third son, age 18, has never been able to enroll in trade school to become an electrician.

My youngest son, age 16, has not been able to attend high school which means he is missing out on AP classes, college prep classes, robotics clubs, sports, etc..

As of right now, my children have no future here in Maine to look to further their education. They have been pressed to have to decide if they will choose between education or their own private medical choices. They have chosen their own conscience over education. Education outside of their own state is a costly option. This has been distressing to say the least and has put us in some very hard positions.

This law has marginalized people. Please uphold this basic human right that people already fought, bled and died for. People have the right to be educated with a clean conscience. Reinstate religious and philosophical exemptions.

Thank you.