

Testimony is Support of LDs 51, 86, 1098, 1148, 1209, and 1228
By Sarah Quirk of Bangor

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

My name is Sarah Quirk. I live in Bangor and am requesting your support of LD 51, LD 869, LD 1098, LD 1148, LD 1209, and LD 1228.

As parents to two school aged children, my husband and I believe that ALL children in our state deserve equal access to educational opportunities. We desire a strong, quality education for our children. We both attended Bangor Schools and choose to live in Bangor for the District's excellent educational programs and extracurricular activities. Since the removal of immunization exemptions, our children are no longer able to attend the school they love, participate in school activities, sports, or extracurricular activities to further enrich their educational experience.

LD 51, 86, 1098, 1148, 1209, and 1228 will expand access to educational opportunities for ALL Maine students and provide equality at public and private schools and universities. Additionally, our state's educational institutions are struggling financially, and this is one way to boost enrollment and tuition dollars while ensuring all Maine students are able to access all educational opportunities.

Maine is our home, and our family is involved in many aspects of our community here. However, if additional educational options are not expanded for our children, we will be forced to move from this community and the state we love to seek other opportunities.