

Heather Pellegren
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LD 51

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the committee, I am asking you today to vote ought to pass on LD 51. I am the solo parent to a 7yr old child. I stood before the committee during the hearing for LD798 begging that they did not pass a bill that would strip my daughter of her right to a public education, and a bill the would end my 10yr career as a well paid jeweler and esteemed gallery manager. [L T T L]
[SEP SEP] I feel like many in the state, my pleas were not heard and it has effected me negatively everyday ever since. Before 2019 I was able to provide a decent middle class life for myself and my child. I had paid sick and vacation time, medical coverage and retirement through my full time employer. As a result of the passage of LD798 I was forced to quit my job so that I could homeschool my daughter and jump into being self employed so I may bring her to work with me or work from home. In doing so I have had to juggle more than one person should have to, and we have faced both food and financial insecurity ever since. I once had so much joy for my life, and felt healthy and vibrant, my work Homelife balance felt sustainable, and my energy for my child endless. The last three years of being the sole provider whilst homeschooling, and having no time away form my child, on top of extreme isolation has taken its toll on me physically, mentally and lastly financially. There are so many barriers already existing for single mother's in this country and this adds just one more. [L T T L]
[SEP SEP] The reasons I chose not to vaccinate are many, I am sure you have heard a litany of testimonies outlining why people make this same choice. Some will site the legal indemnity that vaccine manufacturers are privileged to profit off of without recourse if their product does any form of harm from minor to catastrophic. Some will site the flaws in the safety monitoring system as outlined in a recent Harvard Pilgrim study. Others can give detailed accounts of research bias, fraud, and corporate capture of almost all of our governmental and regulatory agencies. For me, all of those talking points are valid and worth exploring to get to the matter of truth and justice; but far beyond that and reduced to simplest reason is this:

Every human deserves the dignity and freedom to make their own medical decisions about their body. Simply put: Our bodies our choice. [L T T L]
[SEP SEP] Please vote ought to pass on LD 51 and restore our right to exercise our religious and/or philosophical objections to forced vaccination as a condition for our children to access a public education.

Sincerely and hopefully,

Heather B Pellegren