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LD 51

I am here in support of LD51:An Act to Restore Religious and Philosophical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements, 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. I would also like to voice my support for all acts reinstating the right to choose for ourselves what medical care we need.

I don't know if you might remember the mom who drove at 1 am in the snowstorm to the last meeting for this topic? That was me. I've been here several times asking you to please not remove, and now to please reinstate our exemptions. We are NOT going away. We are NOT letting you just take our rights and run.

Thanks to LD 798, my oldest was removed from school his senior year for nearly a month at Christmas until he felt coerced into getting the ONE vaccine he was missing. My son missed out on a full MONTH of his SENIOR year due to a single vaccine that has been shown in VAERS to be harmful to more individuals than it's ever saved. Yet he felt he had no choice but to accept it in order to return to school, to return to his friends, and to receive his diploma.

My middle son was denied the right to ever start school in the first place as we had chosen not to vaccinate him from birth due to the medical issues his brother encountered as a young child before we stopped his vaccines. My middle son is exceptionally healthy. He has never had more than a cold and has an incredibly wonderful immune system. What he doesn't have are friends. What he doesn't have is a favorite teacher. We talked about homeschooling anyway but we could have done that and still chosen to use the local school for gym, art, and music classes prior to LD 798 taking those privileges away. We are able to attend library programs and public places but not school. Not sports teams.

As for myself, I had attempted to better my and my family's lives by going to college also but despite having a medical exemption to one vaccine, I could not get one for the COVID vaccine unless I proved that I would react to that one as well. Given my reaction to the other and the fact that I am already on disability due to medical conditions I suffer from, I was NOT willing to attempt that and further ruin my life. Therefore I was forced to not go back to college after the COVID vaccine came out despite desperately wanting to do so. I am grateful to hear that years later the COVID vaccine is no longer required at my chosen institution so I might finally be able to begin classes in person again but that is not the case for so many other schools. That requirement is taking away the right to further education for so many people like myself who cannot learn online, those who need classroom interaction to succeed.

Please consider reinstating the right to an education in Maine for EVERYONE because at the moment while you may believe there are educational opportunities for everyone I can guarantee you there are some like myself being dropped through the cracks and that's not okay. Not in Maine. I never thought I would need to ask this but please reinstate our right to an education.

Thank you.