

Tessa Burpee
Brewer
LD 51

Testimony in Support of LD 51, LD 1098, and LD 1209
Tessa Burpee, Brewer

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

My name is Tessa Burpee. I live in Brewer. I am writing to ask that you please
support LD 51, LD 1098, and LD 1209

As a born-again believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, I believe the Bible teaches that our
bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Decisions about what to eat, what to drink,
what to use for medicine or medical treatments, are a matter of choice and prayerful
consideration so as not to pollute or defile His temple. Many vaccines contain
human-diploid fibroblast cell cultures. I am pro-life and the use of these cells directly
opposes my view on the value and sanctity of human life.

Our country's founders recognized that we are born with certain unalienable rights
and that we are endowed by our Creator with these rights, which include life, liberty
and the pursuit of happiness. Unalienable means that they are impossible to take away
or give up. Life and liberty exist because we are free people and have sovereignty
over our bodies and our choices. The US Constitution and the Maine Constitution
reflect this belief and protect religious freedom. Further, the Maine Human Rights Act
prohibits discrimination because of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, physical
or mental disability, genetic information, religion, ancestry or national origin. This is
further protection to ensure that all people with religious convictions have freedom of
access to education, employment and other public services.

Under the current law however, my daughter will not be able to attend college in
Maine because of our religious beliefs. As a parent, it is disheartening to think that her
only option for her will be to leave our home state in order to pursue higher education.
Don't we want our children to have options here in Maine, to learn and pursue careers
here?

Please restore religious and philosophical exemptions so that all Maine children have
the option to go to school and pursue higher education and medical careers without
discrimination based on their sincerely held religious beliefs. We cannot afford to turn
away any of the next generation - we need young people to stay here and invest in
Maine's future.

Please support LD 51, LD 1098, and LD 1209