

Heather Sadker
Sidney
LD 51

Dear members of Maine's Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

Please support LDs 51, 869, 1098, 1148, 1209 and 1228 this session. These bills would restore religious and philosophical exemptions to vaccines and prevent COVID-19 vaccination requirements in Maine's public and private school systems, protecting education access for all children in Maine, as well as to those Healthcare Workers who were denied an accommodation and were fired from their jobs in the name of safety.

Maine and national public health officials lied and misled the public during the COVID-19 pandemic about the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines.

Today, the data are clear that COVID-19 poses little risk to school-aged children, and this population has little to benefit from COVID-19 vaccination. In addition, the authorized COVID-19 vaccines do not stop people from contracting the disease or transmitting it to others, and actually poses a health risk to college aged students (myocarditis).

My previous employer (MGMC in Augusta) allowed covid positive staff to work so long as they were "mildly symptomatic" due to staffing shortages. In addition, a travel nurse who recently cared for my family member at MGMC told them that she was unvaccinated. "There's no way I'm putting that into my body" was her reason. What infuriates me is that she was allowed to work for them as a traveler and many staff was fired from their facility for declining the shot, myself included.

Despite these facts, public health officials used fear and panic to cajole education institutions to mandate these products on staff, students and Healthcare Workers. This should never be allowed to happen again.

Implementing a mandate today is akin to kicking tens of thousands of students out of Maine's education system and further weakening our Healthcare system. Please learn from the mistakes of the pandemic and support LDs 51, 869, 1098, 1148, 1209, and 1228 this session. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Heather Sadler