

Scott Simpson
Ellsworth
LD 51

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, I am asking you today to vote 'ought to pass' on LD 51.

I have raised my three wonderful children in the state of Maine and have enjoyed all that this state and my local community has to offer. I am a hard working self employed person that along with my family, has chosen to home school my children up until the children's' age of high school. Our two older children were able to access public education as high schoolers and succeeded and flourished in their musical talents. Unfortunately, they both have left the state of Maine during their higher education because of the recent restrictions due to LD 798. Our third child unfortunately is also not able to attend the public school system (she is in the ninth grade) because of our desire to not vaccinate our children for the reasons of philosophical and religious beliefs, which I firmly believe is a universal right for any human being. I believe that no person or government should be allowed to tell me or anyone what I or others should or should not put into their own body. Especially if it is a chemical that has potential side effects. We as parents and individuals should have a choice.

Because of our choice to homeschool our children, we also chose to live on one income. As I mentioned before, I work hard to provide for my family in this state of Maine. I am required to pay my fair share of local taxes which I am happy to and willfully do. But seeing as my third child is unable to access the public education system because of our vaccine status, I feel very upset that at this current stage of my life, my family is, in no way, benefiting in my taxpayer dollars to support public education.

I respectfully ask you to vote "ought to pass" LD 51 in order to restore our right to health choice as individuals and families of this wonderful state of Maine.

Thank you, I am very grateful for your time and consideration.

Scott Simpson
Ellsworth, Maine