

Kristen Chapman
Sumner
LD 51

Dear Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and members of the Committee of Education and Cultural Affairs,

I am writing IN SUPPORT of LD 51, LD 869, LD 1098, LD 1148, LD 1209, and LD 1228.

It is CLEAR that philosophical and religious vaccine exemptions ARE NECESSARY, as observed by the Superintendent of Lewiston schools NOT enforcing the passage of LD 798, thus allowing students to remain enrolled regardless of vaccine status (as reported in the Sun Journal on February 9, 2023). What is UNCLEAR to me is how this is allowable, as it discriminates against all other similar students in Maine who have been removed from school, as well as healthcare workers, daycare providers and college students who were required to leave their jobs and/or schooling. Much debate surrounds the use of vaccines. Risk DOES come with immunization, particularly so with those authorized under emergency use; exemptions MUST be in place to honor personal choice, religious and medical freedom, and must NOT violate both the United States and State of Maine Constitutional rights. Additionally, I question how the Maine Human Rights Act and current Maine vaccine law can coexist without conflict; perhaps THIS is why the vaccine status of students in Lewiston schools has gone ignored?

Please vote OUGHT TO PASS the above-listed legislative documents.