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LD 51

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the committee, I am asking you today to vote ought to pass on LD 51.

I have lived in Maine for roughly twenty years. I transplanted in 2002 with my first two young children and then had a third home borne Maine baby. Thank you for upholding that level of medical freedom.

Flash forward to my eldest as a June 2019 high school graduate. Soon, she will graduate Husson University having pushed through the covid era by submitting to vaccines in order to achieve her goals. My middle child graduated early during covid via remote schooling because he was set to be denied senior year by LD 798. He's now missing out of the community college offerings because of his health choices but is working full time. My youngest had middle school interrupted by covid and then was removed entirely his 8th grade year. He attended middle school graduation to support his life long friends as an audience member. He went as a guest to homecoming last fall with his now freshmen group, but homeschooling is difficult, especially when ostracized from the woodshop program that he enjoyed just because it's on school grounds.

Aside from my personal difficulties navigating all of that as a single mom, the essence of this issue remains personal choice. It is recognizing the humanity in each person and allowing for freedom of bodily integrity. In this circumstance all I can say is that parents do what they do and it's the children who have been punished here.

I am concerned at the level of discrimination from this egregiously contrived legislation. Admit the mistake. Right the wrong. Return students to schools. Allow families to prosper with opportunities and connect again with their school community.

LD 51 ought to pass.  
Thank you.