

Good morning, Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and esteemed members of the Committee of Education and Cultural Affairs,

My name is Kathleen Hewey. I live in Hiram. I am providing written testimony in support of LD 51, LD 869, LD 1098, LD 1148, LD 1209, and LD 1228 on behalf of our family because we are unable to do so in person.

Since the passage of LD 798, I have been the primary caregiver and educator for my 10 year old daughter. My daughter lost access to school and her peer group, and I lost the opportunity to work outside the home and bring in much needed income. It is quite challenging to live on one income and we have found it difficult to stay afloat - nevermind get ahead - financially. My husband works extra jobs, which means we don't get to see him as much. My daughter is an only child, and has felt very lonely despite all my efforts to keep her connected with peers.

The state would say that we do have a choice: we can vaccinate fully and my daughter can attend public school, or we can opt out of one vaccine and homeschool. My daughter really wants to go to public school; she loved having a class and a teacher. But she also understands that she would have to get a vaccine that could cause her to go into anaphylactic shock in order to do so. Hmmm. Is this really the choice we are left with?

And she cannot get a medical exemption because under LD 798, she must have an anaphylactic reaction TO the vaccine in order to qualify for the exemption.

Public education should be available to all, with no strings attached, and everyone should have the freedom to choose what is best for their family in regard to medical decisions. These are basic rights.

Please consider supporting these bills and vote Ought to Pass.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Hewey