

At a time when we are all coming out of the cold winter months to enjoy the outdoors and mingle with friends, family and visitors to our beautiful state, why would some of our elected officials be promoting the idea that Maine is somehow immune to communicable diseases? With 95% of the state's population having received at least one dose of the COVID 19 vaccine, 82% fully vaccinated, and almost half of our population having received the booster, lawmakers would give the impression that we are out of the woods. Because of the leadership of Nirav Shah and Anthony Fauci and the tireless work of our nation's doctors, researchers, and healthcare workers, we were able to make intelligent decisions to mask up, isolate and vaccinate. I believe these proposed bills currently under consideration will undermine the Maine's stellar response to the pandemic and confuse the population into a false sense of security, that the COVID virus is no longer a threat.

Specifically,

- EMS personnel treat the vulnerable and elderly every day. Exposure to COVID via unvaccinated EMS personnel would be heightened if *LD 601* is passed and that professional is not required to be vaccinated. We must be able to trust that our healthcare providers are actually healthy and not carrying a communicable disease that could be avoided with a vaccination readily available and recommended.

The threat of COVID remains. VOTE NO.