

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,

- Will *LD 1382* create public health principles that do not now exist? Based on Maine's successful response to the first national pandemic in 100 years, this bill appears to be redundant and may even sow unnecessary confusion or mistrust. Should there be another infectious pandemic, I want to believe the principles that guided us beginning in 2020 remain in place and improved, as needed. The threat remains. VOTE NO.