

April 23, 2023

**Testimony in Support of LD 59**

**An Act to Prohibit Inclusion of the COVID-19 Vaccine in the Universal Childhood Immunization Program**

**and**

**LD 1382**

**An Act to Establish the Guiding Public Health Principles of Focused Protection for Pandemics of a Highly Infectious Respiratory Disease**

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Nathan Gould. I am writing this testimony in support of LD 59, “An Act to Prohibit Inclusion of the COVID-19 Vaccine in the Universal Childhood Immunization Program,” LD 1382, “An Act to Establish the Guiding Public Health Principles of Focused Protection for Pandemics of a Highly Infectious Respiratory Disease.”

Our State’s COVID response reveals a need to rethink our response to pandemics, and issues with the COVID vaccine warrant more caution regarding to whom it should be given. Parents should be involved in making decisions in what vaccines their children take. Other countries do not require the COVID vaccination for those under 18-years of age. Please consider the importance of improving our response to pandemics and learning from past mistakes.

I ask the Committee to vote Ought to Pass. Thank you for reading this testimony.

Respectfully,

Nathan C Gould

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