

Jeremy Nichols
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LD 492

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 492, a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maine to affirm parental rights. This amendment would ensure that the natural, inherent, and unalienable rights of minor children are held by their parents or guardians until they reach the age of majority or are granted emancipation. It also affirms that the State, its political subdivisions, and all governmental entities may not infringe on a parent's authority to direct their child's upbringing, education, and physical, mental, and spiritual health—except in cases of abuse, neglect, or criminal acts by the minor.

It is unfortunate that we have reached a point where such a measure is necessary. However, it has become increasingly clear that legislative bodies, school districts, and medical providers are making decisions that circumvent parental authority, often in ways that conflict with a family's values and beliefs. Parents—not the government—should have the final say in how their children are raised, educated, and cared for.

LD 492 is a common-sense proposal. If amending the state constitution is required to reaffirm and protect parental rights, then it is a necessary and justified step. Parents must have the ability to guide their children's development without undue interference from government entities.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to support LD 492 and vote "ought to pass."
Thank you for your time and consideration.