

Bethany Heniser  
Mount Desert  
LD 174

Dear members,

My name is Bethany, and I am writing in strong support of An Act to Restore Religious Exemptions to Immunization Requirements. As a parent, I believe it is critical to uphold religious freedom and parental rights in making medical decisions for our children.

The removal of religious exemptions has forced many families into impossible situations—having to choose between following their deeply held beliefs or accessing education. This goes against the fundamental principles of religious liberty that our country was founded upon. Parents, not the government, should be the ones making informed medical decisions for their children, based on their faith, personal convictions, and discussions with healthcare providers.

Medical choices are deeply personal, and one-size-fits-all mandates do not account for the diverse beliefs and needs of families. Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our democracy, and no parent should have to compromise their faith to ensure their child's right to an education.

I urge you to support this bill and restore the rights of families to make these decisions in alignment with their religious beliefs. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Bethany Heniser