

Erin Taylor
Cape Elizabeth School Department
LD 174

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Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

I am in strong opposition to both LD 174 (An Act to Restore Religious Exemptions to Immunization Requirements) and LD 727 (An Act to Repeal Certain Immunization Requirements for Schools).

As a school nurse, one of my primary duties is to monitor the vaccination status of students. Since the implementation of our current immunization law in 2021, Maine has seen a significant improvement in childhood vaccine compliance. Because of this positive change in the law, the 2024 Maine Annual School Assessment Survey results showed that more than 95 percent of school-age children had received all required vaccines. This was the first year Maine has exceeded the “herd immunity” threshold since reporting began in 2011. This vaccination rate was one of the highest reported rates in the country.

Currently we have a measles outbreak in 20 states in our country. Science has shown us that vaccination is the best means of protecting individuals and our communities against highly infectious, vaccine preventable diseases. Herd immunity helps to prevent the spread of diseases like measles and ultimately helps to save lives. Herd immunity can only be achieved with strict vaccination laws.

Going backward on school vaccination requirements is not in the best interest of the health of our students and communities.

For these reasons, I oppose LD 174 and LD 727.

Thank you,
Erin Taylor, MS, BSN, RN