

Kirsten Anderson
Warren
LD 174

My name is Kirsten Anderson, and I am a resident of Warren, ME. My family and I have recently relocated to Maine from New Hampshire in pursuit of a better opportunity for our family. We are organic farmers and have great respect for the state of Maine and its friendliness towards small family farms. We are, however, facing a great barrier when it comes to school and childcare in this state. Sadly, our two young children are excluded and unable to participate in school and childcare programs in this state due to LD-798. This has made our transition all the more stressful and isolating. Children deserve the right to learn in a social experience regardless of family values. Families deserve the right to make medical decisions about their children without the consequences of exclusion and depriving them of the opportunity of an education. Please consider passing LD-174 which will allow all families from a rich and diverse background and a broad range of philosophical, and religious values to participate in the educational programs that Maine has to offer. Isolating families does not keep us safe. Community is the fabric of our society and all children deserve to be part of a social and educational community. It is unethical for the state government to force a medical procedure that goes against a families value system, with no liability if an injury were to occur, in order for that family's child to attend childcare and school programming. Please consider the nearly 6% of all children in the state of Maine that are excluded from an opportunity that they deserve access to. Thank you for your time.