

Testimony of Joyce A Maker before the Joint Standing Committee on  
Education and Cultural Affairs  
April 7, 2025

In Opposition to LD 727, "An Act to Repeal Certain Immunization Requirements for Schools"

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and honorable members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee . I am Joyce A. Maker from Calais, Maine. I am here to speak in opposition of LD 727.

I am truly surprised this bill got through the Revisor's office. It was not clear on the content. In the Summary, it stated: "This bill repeals certain immunization requirements for a child to attend a public or private elementary or secondary school in the State." It states that it wants to repeal certain immunizations but it was not clear on what immunizations. After further investigation, it has become apparent that the bill seeks to eliminate vaccine requirements altogether, which raises serious concerns about public health and safety. As you know, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (MECDC) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) are entrusted with setting and enforcing these crucial immunization requirements to protect our children and the broader community from preventable diseases. Any changes are brought to the Legislature and voted on by the Maine Legislature.

The importance of vaccination cannot be overstated. Repealing these requirements could expose our children to diseases that were once under control, leading to unnecessary outbreaks. Our collective responsibility is to ensure that we do not return to a time when preventable diseases led to significant harm and loss.

I urge you to carefully consider the potential long-term consequences of this bill and to vote "ought not to pass" on LD 727. The health and safety of Maine's children must remain a top priority, and we must continue to follow the guidance of public health experts to protect our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your dedication to making decisions that safeguard the well-being of Maine's residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce A. Maker". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle initial.

Joyce A. Maker  
89 Lafayette Street  
Calais, ME. 04619

