

Robyn Maheu  
Winslow  
LD 174

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

I am in strong opposition to both LD 174 LD (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 many primary duties is to monitor the status of students in regards to their vaccines. In 2021, the law was finally implemented and vaccination rates improved. Maine has one of the highest vaccination rates in the country. There are over 20 states in the US currently in the middle of a measles outbreak. Going backwards on our current immunization law would place Maine's public health in a vulnerable position. Many of the required vaccines are against diseases that have not been seen for decades, but due to other states and countries with more lax requirements, we are seeing these diseases return. Repealing and restore previous exemptions and requirements for school vaccination is not in the best interest of the health of our students and communities. For these reasons, I oppose LD 174 and LD 727.