

Kristin Brady
Portland, ME
LD 174

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

I am writing to express my 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 with eight years of nursing experience, I am responsible for managing the health of the students at my school and advocating for their best interests in terms of healthcare. Vaccines have been extensively researched for safety and efficacy and have a proven track record for reducing communicable diseases in our community, ultimately keeping our population safe and protected. This is especially vital for public schools, where attendance is mandatory for children to receive an education.

In 2024, the vaccination rate of Maine school children was 95% - one of the highest in the country. Passing legislation that would decrease vaccination compliance would be a step backward, and I cannot support such a measure.

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