

Susan Kistenmacher
Farmingdale
LD 727

Members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

I'm writing to urge you to vote NO on LD 174 and LD 727. These bills would weaken Maine's strong vaccine laws, which keep our children, schools, businesses, and day care centers safe from preventable diseases.

Maine's vaccination laws are working. Since the laws passed in 2019, Maine's vaccination rates have risen significantly and the first time, we've reached the 95% threshold needed for herd immunity. This means fewer outbreaks, safer classrooms, and stronger protection for babies and vulnerable people who can't be vaccinated for medical reasons.

LD 174 would bring back non-medical exemptions, and LD 727 would go even further by eliminating vaccine requirements altogether. These changes would leave our schools vulnerable to outbreaks of disease, threatening lives and our state's economy. We're already seeing surges in diseases like measles in states with weaker laws. Maine shouldn't be next.

Vaccines are a shared public health responsibility. They aren't just a personal decision. As a Mainer, I want our state to continue following science and protecting all children, including those with compromised immune systems.

Please stand up for public health, our schools, and the will of Maine voters, who overwhelmingly upheld the vaccine law at the ballot box in 2020 with a majority in every county. Why would we take unnecessary risks with our kids' health and undo a law that is working?

Please vote "Ought Not to Pass" on LD 174 and LD 727.

Sincerely,
Susan Kistenmacher
Farmingdale, ME