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LD 174

I urge all members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee to vote NOT OUGHT TO PASS on LD 174 that would reinstate religious / nonmedical exemptions for school-required vaccines. As a lifelong, active church member myself, I urge committee members to recognize how this bill is not about religious practice or freedom. Indeed, there is nothing in any of the 9 denominations represented by our state's Maine Council of Churches that justifies a religious-based exemption to decades of proof of the efficacy of vaccinating our society's children so that ALL OUR CHILDREN can be protected against diseases such as measles. Indeed, it is our faith that supports justice for the common good –our connected humanity and vaccines are definitely a shared responsibility to support that connected humanity. This is why Maine's current vaccination policies should NOT be reversed –an action that, as we've all been witnessing in other parts of the country, would cause illness, hospitalizations and even death. LD174 is not about individual choice held behind a banner of religion, but about forcing its views on the general population -who overwhelmingly upheld our 2019 vaccine law at the ballot box.