

Regina Creeley
Hudson
LD 174

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of L.D. 176

An Act to Restore Religious Exemptions to Immunization Requirements.

By Regina Creeley M. Ed.

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Good Morning Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and Distinguished Members of the Educational and Cultural Affairs Committee.

My name is Regina Creeley and I am testifying in support of L.D. 176, An Act to Restore Religious Exemptions to Immunization Requirements. My residence is in Hudson and I taught Special Education in Old Town for thirty years. In 2014, I was voted Special Education Professional of the year (by the Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities (MADSEC)).

Almighty God's creation is not simple and it is not always safe. Vaccines, like all of creation, are complex and sometimes produce unsafe complex reactions in individual people.

Special Education is made up of individualized education plans. One ed plan does not fit every child. One medical plan does not fit every child, not does it fit every adult. Creation is a complex place and one size does not fit all.

Our special education directors are asking for more and more money and more adult services for the growing population of sick and disabled students. More and more students are not healthy. The special education budgets keep climbing and climbing, swallowing educational resources. Several young adults have told me they don't want to have any children because they are afraid their children will be disabled. Why is there all this disability? This makes me wonder about God's plan for Maine's children. Is his plan that Maine will not have any healthy children in the decades to come? The rate of illness keeps climbing and climbing. It is not going down, What is the message in that? What is the message that Almighty God is sending us when he sends us more and more disabled people? Is our current course correct or do we need a course change?

Many parents with great humility ask God's guidance when making parental decisions. If they have one vaccine injured child and God guides them to delay vaccines for their other child, who has the right to tell them not to listen to God's guidance?

No one person has all the answers.

Almighty God is a complex God and believing in one medical size that fits all does not match His complexity. Let Mainers believe in God in their own way. God is sending us a message by sending us more and more disabled people. Our budgets can't sustain this onslaught of disabilities and ill health. We need to listen to God's guidance each in our own way, God is real and the rise in disabilities is real. It is not going down. No one person has all the answers for everyone.

May Almighty God guide you in your decision making and may God Almighty bless each and everyone of you. Thank you for your service to the children of Maine.