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LD 727

LD 727 would eliminate vaccine requirements altogether. This bill repeals certain immunization requirements for a child to attend a public or private elementary or secondary school.

I would not want to live in the Middle Ages, nor would I expect my children or neighbors to. I grew up proud of American and global science and medicine — devoted experts, highly trained, careful procedures, testing, trials, reporting, data collection. I was proud of our advancement. I used to look sadly at neighbors deformed from polio before the vaccine. They struggled all their lives long with injuries and difficulties that my vaccines saved me from. I was grateful.

People are around the world are almost all wise enough to not treat proper science with careful proper scientific facts as a political football for votes, for outrage, for staged drama. I have been proud of Maine for rising above that in most circumstances, despite mostly outside political pressures.

We should celebrate the global success of vaccines as reported and not try to expose our children to death and injury from denying the truth, we should be proud to read the OCTOBER 15, 2024 issue of the Scientific American, Tara Halle reported on “The Staggering Success of Vaccines” writing, and I quote:

“Around the globe the measles vaccine has saved nearly 94 million lives over the past 50 years. This and other vaccinations have revolutionized global health.

“Immunization is the most universal innovation that we have across humankind,” says Orin Levine, a fellow at the Center for Global Development in Washington, D.C. He notes that there are people around the world without access to telephones or even toilets, but they find ways to get their children immunized. “It’s the innovation that demonstrates what is possible in terms of delivery of service to everyone everywhere.”

A May study in the Lancet estimated that vaccines against 14 common pathogens have saved 154 million lives over the past five decades—at a rate of six lives every minute. They have cut infant mortality by 40 percent globally and by more than 50 percent in Africa. Throughout history vaccines have saved more lives than almost any other intervention. And vaccines’ promotion of health equity goes far beyond preventing death. The Lancet study found that each life saved through immunization resulted in an average 66 years of full health, without the long-term problems that many diseases cause. Vaccines play a role in nearly every measurement of health equity, from improving access to care, to reducing disability and long-term morbidity, to preventing loss of labor and the death of caretakers.”

Let’s continue to value science, value facts, and value our children, teachers and healthcare workers.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully submitted.