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LD 727

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Education and Cultural Affairs Committee members:

As a child in the 1960s, I received smallpox and polio vaccines against diseases that were later essentially eradicated throughout the world. It is a rare person who knows what an iron lung is or can recall witnessing a case of polio. That is the result of successful vaccination programs.

I am a retired RN who has watched adults die from preventable diseases such as lung cancer, AIDS and untreated cardiac disease. Fortunately, I have not had to endure the death of a child from a preventable disease - and pray I never will.

I strongly urge you to respect the knowledge gained from decades of scientific evidence proving that immunization against childhood disease saves more lives. Residents of Maine have spoken on this topic as recently as March 2020, when 72.8% of voters defeated a citizen's referendum, LD 798, which proposed to eliminate religious and philosophical exemptions for K-12 school required vaccinations. Please consider that vote.

As Maine lawmakers, you can demonstrate that you understand the gravity and purpose of effective vaccination requirements by voting NO on LD 174 and LD 727.

Regards, Cindy Kekacs