

Candice McElroy  
Stow  
LD 727

I am a family physician, a parent of students attending Maine public school, and a school board member of MSAD72. The current immunization requirements for public school attendance in Maine are the bare minimum that are recommended to protect our students and staff from vaccine-preventable illnesses and should not be scaled back. Schools should be safe places for our students to learn and not places that put them at risk of becoming sick with or dying from vaccine-preventable illnesses. Vaccines are safe and are proven to save lives. They play an important role not only in our personal protection against vaccine-preventable illnesses, but also in protecting our communities including those who are immunocompromised, too young to receive certain vaccines, elderly and more vulnerable to infections, or those who have rare medical contraindications to vaccination. Vaccines are part of our social contract with each other to create a safe and healthy society. The US has recently had the first deaths from measles in over a decade because of large communities of unvaccinated individuals in other states. Please do not let Maine be added to the list of growing outbreaks of vaccine-preventable illnesses by removing the protections that our children have in public schools now due to vaccine requirements.

Thank you,  
Candice McElroy, MD