

Testimony in OPPOSITION to LD 174 and LD 727

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs April 7, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

My name is Jaidyn Wolfe and I am a second-year medical student with the intention of practicing pediatrics. I'd like to express my opposition to LD 174 and LD 727.

Before entering medical school, I worked at a pediatric urgent care. I witnessed first-hand how a pandemic can disrupt the lives of families and endanger children, especially those with chronic medical conditions. I witnessed children be sent from our facility to hospitals via ambulance because their bodies were at war with the virus. I saw and comforted those distraught parents as they worried for their children's future. While we might not have had the means to fully prevent the COVID-19 pandemic, we do have the means to prevent a measles outbreak.

Maine's children are currently well protected by the vaccination laws in the state, which are some of the strongest among the country. I fear that LD 174 and LD 727 would make Maine more susceptible to a deadly outbreak of the measles. This endangers not just the children of Maine, but entire families across the state.

When Maine's vaccine law was passed, there was overwhelming bipartisan support. Mainers understand that science, rather than misinformation, should be what guides public health policy. Lowering the states vaccination requirement is a decision that the state would surely come to regret as rising numbers of vaccine preventable illnesses spread across the country. Please do not backtrack on a law that has made this state safe.

I respectfully urge you to vote "Ought Not to Pass" on these bills. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jaidyn Wolfe, OMS-II

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