

Kaylee Knudsen
Topsham
LD 727

Testimony in Support of LD 727 - An Act to Repeal Certain Immunization Requirements for Schools

Subject: Support for LD 727 - An Act to Repeal Certain Immunization Requirements for Schools

Dear Honorable Members of the Educational and Cultural Affairs Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 727 - An Act to Repeal Certain Immunization Requirements for Schools. This bill offers a balanced approach to protecting the rights of Maine families while considering the importance of individual freedoms and health choices in our educational system.

As a concerned citizen and School Nurse, I believe it is crucial to acknowledge the rights of parents to make informed medical decisions for their children, particularly when it comes to decisions related to vaccinations. While the importance of immunizations in public health cannot be understated, the decision to vaccinate is deeply personal and should be made by families in consultation with their healthcare providers, free from mandates or government interference.

LD 727 recognizes that each child is unique, and their healthcare needs may differ from those of others. The bill allows for greater flexibility, ensuring that parents can make healthcare decisions for their children based on their own values, beliefs, and considerations. These decisions may include religious beliefs, medical exemptions, or concerns about the potential side effects of specific vaccines.

It is essential to respect the autonomy of parents and guardians to make choices that align with their individual moral, ethical, and religious beliefs. For some families, immunizations may conflict with their deeply held convictions. By allowing the repeal of certain immunization requirements, Maine would uphold the constitutional right to religious freedom, ensuring that no one is forced to violate their beliefs in order to access education.

In addition to respecting parental autonomy, repealing these immunization requirements acknowledges the growing concern around the overreach of government mandates. This bill strikes a balance by ensuring that families have the option to make decisions based on informed consent, without fear of being penalized or excluded from school systems.

While it is essential to maintain a focus on public health, it is also important to recognize the importance of trust between healthcare providers, families, and schools. By allowing families to make vaccination decisions that are in line with their personal beliefs, we encourage a collaborative and respectful approach to healthcare and education.

In conclusion, I urge you to support LD 727 to repeal certain immunization requirements for schools in Maine. This bill is a step in the right direction toward respecting the rights of families and ensuring that healthcare decisions remain in the hands of those who know the needs of their children best.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kaylee Knudsen, MSN, RN, NCSN