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As an administrator for a private school that includes toddler and preschool care and community aftercare school care for many public schools, I have seen first hand the fear on families faces when bringing their children to school. We have had staff members stop coming to work. And the entire community is carrying the weight and sadness of our most vulnerable community members.

We cannot provide the quality of early care and education that all children need when the entire community is either scared, sad, or our team is short-handed.

In addition, community health and well-being relies upon everyone having access to medical care. When segments of our population are not able to access this kind of care, it makes the entire community vulnerable - as we all experienced first hand, with COVID.

Please help us protect the next generation of Mainers so they can be cared for and educated in safety in order to become the thoughtful, resilient, collaborative members of our community possible to help us all realize greater peace.