

Dr Sara Littlefield Rivard
57 Underhill Drive
Gorham, ME 04038
207-756-9263

March 11, 2019

To the members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

I am writing in opposition to LD 798. I am a resident of Gorham, a mom to two boys in 7th and 9th grade and a healthcare provider. I have done extensive research in regards to LD798 and strongly oppose taking away options to remove individual healthcare decisions.

I am asking you to vote against it and preserve rights and freedoms for all Mainers.

Here are some reasons, that as representatives of the people, you should vote down LD798:

1. It takes away our freedom of medical choice. This is fundamental. As a parent, I do not feel that any medical decisions should be made for my children by anyone except myself and their father. These decisions are private, and should be protected as so. None of you would want medical decisions made for you, even under the guise of "better for society". This is our right and freedom. Do not take it away.
2. It is an infringement on religious freedom. LD798 violates the very first amendment our forefathers fought to protect.
3. It withholds education from healthy children, a right that the 14th amendments equal protection clause protects. The argument that these children are a risk to others is just not valid. There are rules in place that all parents of an un/under vaccinated child agrees to uphold in the case of exposure to a virus. Forcing a person to undergo a medical procedure or forego schooling in the public or private sector is discrimination.

I have done countless hours of research on vaccine risks and rewards. My stance is not an uneducated one. I am not anti-vaccine, I am pro-vaccine choice. This issue is for parents to decide. I see no reason why the State of Maine would feel it is within their rights to take away a medical decision from anyone, for any reason. You must protect our rights and our constitution by voting against LD798.

Sincerely,

Dr Sara Littlefield Rivard