

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for taking time to consider this important topic. I am asking you today to vote - ought to pass on LD 51.

I'm 53 and have lived in Maine since 1978. In my teens I experienced a long-lasting adverse vaccine reaction, something listed in the vaccine insert's warning information. I developed neurological tics, a brain effect- I would suddenly and repeatedly twitch my head and eyes, over and over. These disturbing neurological tics lasted for more than a decade, and that was just what could be seen on the outside. I later learned that I have MTHFR gene mutation that results in the body not ridding itself of toxins, and instead the toxins build up. I continue to have health problems related to this including multiple environmental sensitivities and auto-immune illness. These health problems make life difficult every day for myself and my family, and I have sought to reduce the possibility of my children having the same health problems.

With my now 9 yr old daughter, instead of injected vaccines, we opted for HP, homeoprophylaxis, which protects her and others from common childhood illnesses, with no risk of adverse reactions. HP is used around the world in epidemic situations with success. My husband and I have been thoughtful and responsible about vaccine decisions. Please find additional info about HP below. It could be affordably implemented here in Maine for those who can't or won't vaccinate, with improved outcomes for all. I'd be glad to be a resource.

Back to our story: In order to attend public Kindergarten and 1st grade in 2019 and 2020, my daughter had a medical exemption via her doctor's office that was based on my history of adverse vaccine reaction and our concerns. Our doctor was understanding and supportive of our health decisions in response to the family medical history. The medical exemption was phrased "due to mother's history of adverse vaccine reaction, MTHFR gene mutation status, food and environmental sensitivities, and parent concerns, this child is exempt from vaccine requirements for public school attendance."

When ld 798 came into effect, we were told they could no longer give that medical exemption. Our Doctor is still supportive of these health decisions but has no say. A medical exemption now requires that a child have an adverse reaction to each individual vaccine prior to being exempt. Given that some of these effects are significant and long-lasting, we won't risk our child's health in this way, and so public school and all its benefits are not an option for her.

Homeschooling puts an enormous amount of pressure financially, w/ time and educational resources on families for following their educated and deeply held beliefs. It also takes a parent out of the workforce, with those many effects. We wish for Maine to return to the mutually respectful, admiring of independent thinking and valuing all our neighbors, place that it was prior to 2019.

Please reinstate the philosophical and religious exemptions so that children can return to school. Please vote -ought to pass- on LD 51.

Thank you. Tara and Wade Ambrose

Info about HP below:

<https://www.homeopathyminneapolis.com/homeoprophylaxis>

<https://www.atlantaclassicalhomeopathy.com/homeoprophylaxis>

<https://www.amazon.com/Long-Term-Homeoprophylaxis-Study-Children-America/dp/Bo8DS7NVJ>