

David R Twitchell

10 Green Tree Road
Wayne, Maine 04284
(207)343-2767
tippedoveragain@yahoo.com
30 March 2023

Education and Cultural Affairs Committee

Regarding LD 51 and related legislation

Position: In favor

Thank you each for representing everyone in your districts and the State.

It is important to protect everyone in our Country in every way we can. Immunizations are strongly recommended to help with that. We also, all appear to want to defend the individual choices, beliefs and values of everyone. Telling others what to do with their bodies as little as possible is part of that.

Having lived in and loved Maine for over 35 years one of the best things about the State is that most people accept differences, and let their neighbors be themselves.

The immunization mandates for students, schools and health care workers have no accommodation for religious practices. To me, that does not represent Maine.

During the pandemic I spoke strongly for masking, immunizations and sanitation - as a citizen, in my job at a group home, and as a volunteer with the schools. I masked and kept clean at work, in schools and in public. And, because of public fears, and the desire to protect all those around me - I got "the jab" - the first in my life.

Now common masking and social distancing almost everywhere are gone. Even most group homes no longer require masking.

In past years, in Maine schools and group homes, vaccinations were required, but had accommodations. There was not a blanket exemption, each had to help with health and safety by staying home if there was an outbreak of something, and other precautions. My group home work, too. As a family we were careful of the health of the school and the community.

Why does the State still require that so many have the covid and other vaccines, without any possible accommodation? During the pandemic there was a major threat to our community and the world. Now that Covid is not considered as much of a threat it is my hope that our representatives will reconsider the imposition on religious practices and conscience.

Sincerely,

David.