Edwin Thelander Bristol, Maine

Ought To Pass: Speaking in favor of LD 51, LD869, LD1098, LD1148, LD1209, LD1228

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of these bills. Either of these bills, or a merger of them, will correct past legislative errors and will help many Maine people get the proper education that they've already paid for.

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and distinguished members of the committee, I am asking you today to vote Ought To Pass on LD 51, LD869, LD1098, LD1148, LD1209, LD1228 or some combination of them.

I have had all my vaccines from childhood and through my extensive military career, up until the Covid vaccines. I am vaccine injured because I obeyed orders to take the anthrax vaccine when it was mandated for the military in 1999. It took me years to find out what was wrong with me, and I am on a continual journey to maintain and improve my health as a result.

Our youngest son has not been able to attend summer camp because they wanted to mandate an emergency use-authorized vaccine for a 14 year old boy.

Watching as the school treated children differently because they are not vaccinated was horrible. Our oldest son could not use the Maine Community College system to become an EMT last year because of the Covid vaccine mandates. Maine would have another hard-working EMT right now if those mandates were not in place.

I am currently enrolled in the University of Maine system, pursuing a bachelor's degree in aviation to get my commercial pilot's license, and will need to leave if something is medically mandated to me that goes against my philosophical and religious beliefs to take care of my health.

If that happens, I will need to continue my education with another school, such as Liberty University, which does not have such barriers to education.

The people of Maine have suffered enough over the past three years. Partially because of Covid, but primarily because of unchecked government interference in our lives, arbitrarily and capriciously dictating where we can go, who we can see, who gets to have a wedding, a funeral, or a high school graduation.

We must never forget the medical services that were denied people due to unnecessary mandates.

America, and the State of Maine, need to restore the freedoms that this country and state were founded on.

Please vote Ought To Pass on these bills. Thank you.