

# 131<sup>st</sup> MAINE LEGISLATURE

4/3/23

## Education and Cultural Affairs Committee

Senator Rafferty and Representative Brennan, I'm Judith A. Dean from 773 US 1, Perry, ME here today at this public hearing in support, with suggested changes, of **LD-51, An Act to Restore Religious and Philosophical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements**. LD-51 was presented by Representative Drinkwater and co-sponsored by Representative Perkins, both of whom should be commended for bringing this important legislation forward.

### **Sec.4. 20-A MRSA S6359, sub-S3 B (lines 23-25)**

I believe the language should be more specific as to exactly what immunization requirements are to be modified by this proposed legislation. Generally, but with one or two possible exceptions, I currently support the so called "historical list of shots" required of all students prior to entering grade school (and other schools) and I would prefer to see most if not all of those types of required immunizations continued. My rationale is as follows:

I tend to think that a major driving force behind this proposed legislation is not necessarily the basic historical requirements but is rather related to the on-going, and more recent, controversy with respect to the latest type of immunization- namely the recent shots required in response to the Covid-19 outbreak. Therefore, to make passage of a modified version of LD-51 more likely, I would suggest that

the immunization requirements covered by this legislation be limited solely to immunization varieties based on spiked- protein based vaccines, as this is the one requirement that much of the current immunization controversy is all about. I would also add that I would want this very specific type of exemption to be granted for either a sincere religious belief or for philosophical reasons. Similar changes would obviously be required in lines 4-6 above.

**Sec.6. 22 MRSA S802,sub-S4//B (lines 1-3)**

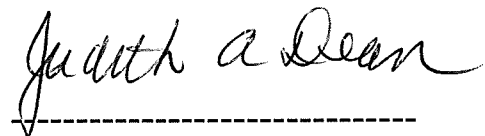
Just what employees are covered by this section? It appears that clarification is needed here.

Similar to my comments above, I would prefer to have immunization exemptions under this section be specifically limited to immunization varieties based on spiked- protein based vaccines for either sincere religious or philosophical reasons.

**Sec.7 MRSA S8402, sub-S3,//A (lines 10-13)**

I personally see no reason why there really needs to be any exemptions from the 2- year requirement described here. Therefore, I propose not adding the underlined language.

Respectfully submitted for consideration by the committee,

  
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