

March 31, 2025

Testimony of Rep. Marygrace C. Cimino presenting

**LD 871 An Act to Exempt All Persons, including Health Care and
Emergency Services Personnel, from COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements**

Presented to the Committee on Health and Human Services, Cross Building, Room 209

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Marygrace C. Cimino and I represent House District 83, which includes the towns of Bridgton, Harrison and Denmark. I am pleased to present LD 871, **An Act to Exempt All Persons, including Health Care and Emergency Personnel, from COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements.**

I would like to begin my testimony with some background information.

In August 2021, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services issued an emergency ruling that healthcare workers in the State of Maine must be vaccinated against COVID-19 effective October 2021 and that ruling included EMS workers.

On July 11, 2023, Maine DHHS proposed removing the COVID-19 vaccine from required immunizations for healthcare workers.

Finally, effective January 10, 2024, the Maine EMS Board supposedly amended Chapter 21, removing “the requirement for Covered Emergency Medical Services Persons to be immunized against COVID-19.”

Despite this supposed “change” in the vaccine requirement policy by Maine EMS, however, there remains much confusion as to whether First Responders, including EMS, still need to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition of employment.

It is my hope that this bill, if enacted, will bring clarity to current law by clearly prohibiting the State from requiring any person, including healthcare facility employees and emergency medical services personnel, to receive a COVID-19 vaccine as a condition of employment.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my bill and I would be happy to address any questions you may have.