

Dear Honorable Member of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Public Affairs,

I'm writing to urge you to vote NO on LD 174 and LD 727. These bills would weaken Maine's strong vaccine law, which helps keep our children, schools, businesses, and healthcare centers safe from preventable diseases.

Since the law passed in 2019, Maine's vaccination rates have risen significantly. For the first time, we've reached the 95% threshold needed for herd immunity. That means fewer outbreaks, safer classrooms, and stronger protection for vulnerable people who can't be vaccinated for medical reasons.

There are constitutional rights, but they do not include a right to place our children at risk because of beliefs of a minority.

LD 174 would bring back non-medical exemptions, and LD 727 would go even further by eliminating vaccine requirements altogether. Vaccines aren't just a personal decision—they are a public health responsibility. As a Mainer, I want our state to continue following science and protecting all children.

Please stand up for the will of Maine voters, who overwhelmingly upheld the vaccine law at the ballot box in 2020 with a majority in every county.

Sincerely, Lloyd C. Irland