

**Testimony in Support of LD174**  
**An Act to Restore Religious Exemptions to Immunization Requirements**  
**Calioppe Murray-Trefts, Edinburg ME**

My name is Calioppe Murray-Trefts and I'm 14 years old. I live in Edinburg, ME. I'm a victim of LD798. My story started when I was just 11 years old in 5th grade. When my mom told me that I wasn't able to go to school I didn't know it was going to be forever. I didn't know I was going to be kicked out of school sports or even school in general. Once reality set in, I felt really betrayed by how I saw the government. I learned I couldn't trust them after thinking that the government was safe and was here to give all of us the same opportunities.

I started track and field when I was 3. Ever since I watched my older sisters do track in high school I was excited to fall in their footsteps. I'm now a freshman and I can't experience that feeling. Track is a big part of my life and it really hurts that I can't be a part of a team and do the sport that I love.

Whenever people talk about middle school or highschool I feel left out because I wasn't able to experience either of those. I shouldn't have to be kicked out of school or sports. The fact I haven't ever experienced a middle school dance or a homecoming really hurts because I've always wanted to go to those.

Middle school hit the hardest as I was becoming a teenager and realizing this is how my life is. I lost a lot of my friends. Whenever I tell people about the LD798 law, they don't believe me or even know what it is. The fact people don't know what they are even voting for really tells me how well the government tells the truth. When my friends and I talk about why I'm homeschooled, even they can see how wrong it is that I'm not allowed to be in school.

For the last 4 years, since I've been stuck at home, and I am not around people as much, I have bad social anxiety and it's really hard to go out and try new things. I have always had trouble with math and in my last year of school I really was starting to get the hang of it. But then when they passed the law and I no longer had teachers around to help me, it became a struggle with my math skills. Being homeschooled is more difficult because my mom works long hours throughout the day and it is hard to get help like I used to.

People say, "Why don't you just get vaccinated then?" It's not that simple. People should know the truth of what is being put in their bodies. It really is not good for your health and they are not safe. God made us with immune systems for a reason. We shouldn't be forced to put toxins in our bodies.

When I think about school now, I think about how unfair it is, while my friends talk about field trips, sports, spirit week, or even just laughing in class with their friends. I get really emotional because I'm reminded that I can't do any of that, in no thanks to what the government has put me through.

If the politicians that put the vaccination law in place could be in my shoes even just for a day, they would see how unlucky I am and how unfair it really is to go through all of this. Most

politicians are talking about very unnecessary laws but they are not paying attention to the effects these laws have on children and families.

I really hope this law will pass because I just want to have one year or even a day in high school to experience that. Thank you for this opportunity to tell my side of the story. I'm asking you to please vote ought to pass on LD174.