



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002  
(207) 287-1440  
TTY: (207) 287-4469

## Tracy L. Quint

318 Westford Hill Rd.  
Hodgdon, ME 04730  
Residence: (207) 217-4493  
Tracy.Quint@legislature.maine.gov

April 7, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and esteemed members of the Education & Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Representative Tracy Quint of House District 8. Thank you for the opportunity to present LD 727, *"An Act to Repeal Certain Immunization Requirements for Schools."*

This bill repeals the stripping of religious and philosophical exemptions for school vaccine mandates.

I have had many constituents reach out to me lately concerning homeschooling. The reason, vaccine requirements for their children to attend our public schools. It is interesting to me, that at a time when admissions are down, we are putting parameters on whether a child can attend school on an idea that vaccine requirements increase vaccination rates. In actuality, this has provided skewed data as unvaccinated children are not counted, only "schoolchildren". This gives a false sense of reality to those who believe we have hit a target. You see, our schools are not islands and unvaccinated children are just as involved at community functions, churches, scouting events, birthday parties, and sleepovers. This list could go on forever- restaurants, grocery stores, bowling alleys, state parks. Feel free to add on your own locations or every other location other than our schools. Not only that, these same children are still publicly exposed to unvaccinated or under vaccinated adults.

Our state is known as "Vacationland". It is an economic driver in our state. People from around the world come here. Their vaccination status is unknown. You do not know what illnesses or diseases that they have been exposed to or are carrying. To deny a child the right to an education is nonsensical given the real world reality of exposure in non-school settings. I think of our college students who choose to attend in other states that allow exemptions. These students, most often, go on to secure jobs in the states where they attend college as they set down roots. We are sending away our future for arbitrary requirements when we should be embracing them and encouraging them to stay. A family member of mine is going to school in New Hampshire to become a vet tech due to the exemptions allowed there. That was the deciding factor as she was accepted into a program in Maine. We need vet techs here in Maine. I am sure this family member will be offered a job in New Hampshire and most likely will not return to Maine after graduation. Why would she want to come back to a state that denied her educational opportunities over her compliance to vaccine requirements to sit in a school building when strangers can attend ball games in the same setting with vaccine status being unknown. Once again, an arbitrary requirement that does nothing as the movement of

everyone else in our state nullifies this fake perception of “herd immunity” that the school guidelines falsely give credence to.

I thank you for your attention to this matter and request that you stop this discriminatory practice of denying our children their right to a public education.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tracy L. Quint". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tracy L. Quint  
State Representative