

To: clerk

From: Amanda Krantz ([Akrantz78@gmail.com](mailto:Akrantz78@gmail.com))

Re: Testimony for LD 833

To: Education and Cultural Affairs Committee 2021-2022

From: Amanda Krantz

Date: May 6, 2021

Re: Testimony in support of LD 833

Chairperson Michael Brennan, Chairperson Joseph Rafferty and esteemed members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee (Matthea Daughtry, Rebecca Millett, W. Edward Crockett, Janice Dodge, David McCrea, Suzanne Salisbury, Timothy Roche, David Woodsome, Sheila Lyman, Heidi Sampson, Paul Stearns),

My name is Amanda Krantz and I am a lifelong Mainer and nearly 20 year resident of Westbrook. I am submitting testimony in support of LD 833 and I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 833 to reinstate the religious exemption.

Removal of the religious exemption for immunization requirements based on religious beliefs for students in elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools and employees of nursery schools and certain health care facilities has resulted in a culture in Maine where it is acceptable to discriminate based on a person/families religious beliefs.

It is vitally important that we reinstate this exemption so that private religious schools are able to honor the beliefs of the families attending their schools and would allow the schools to have integrity in the faith in which they represent.

It was previously ruled (Bangor Baptist v Maine 1981) that not allowing religious exemptions gives the state too much influence in the way a religious school operates. This also supports that there must be a separation of church and state – an essential tenant of American values.

The State of Maine is in dire need of childcare providers and health care workers. Reinstating the religious exemption would allow these critical members of society to remain in the State of Maine (along with their families), providing crucial services necessary for a health economy in our state.

I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 833 to ensure we protect the rights of my family as well as all members of our society and ensure we all have equal access to education, fair and equal employment opportunity and to ensure we do not unnecessarily force much needed health care and childcare employees out of the state.

Amanda Krantz  
Westbrook

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