

Written Testimony in favor of LD 51, LD 1098, LD 1209, LD 1228, LD 1148, LD 869

Thank you, senator Rafferty, representative Brennan, and all committee members for taking my written testimony into consideration for support of all of these bills but specifically to LD 51.

My name is Jennifer Adams and I am a resident of Wells.  
I am also a special education teacher with the RSU #21 school district.

Previously, I have testified to the Education Committee in support of LD833, LD156, LD96, LD 1082. At that time, I shared that my children were thriving in the Wells School District and myself as a special educator for RSU#21. Additionally, I shared that if religious exemptions were not restored, we would pull our children from Wells Public Schools and Maine may lose me as a special education teacher.

Today, I urge you to recognize the errors previously made that violate the Constitutional and State rights of Maine citizens and pass LD 51 and all the other bills supporting the restoration of religious and philosophical exemptions. Currently, my children attend St.Mary's Academy in Dover, NH. We have no plans even if this law passes to have them attend Wells Junior High. This is a direct result of our religious exemption being taken away from our family. In two years, our son will finish his 8th grade year at St.Mary Academy. At that time, our family will relocate out of Maine. Additionally, Maine will lose an experienced veteran special education teacher.

My husband and I often state to our children a family motto: "Actions have consequences." I want this committee to know that their previous action of not passing LD833, LD156, LD96 and LD 1082 has consequences. Families, with children being educated in our state, are leaving Maine due to the elimination of religious and philosophical exemptions!

As a representative voted in by citizens of Maine, I encourage you to reverse the limits this committee has already put on citizens of this state. I strongly urge you to pass LD 51 and all other bills today supporting religious and philosophical exemptions. Thank you for supporting Maine and Maine families!

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Adams  
Wells, ME