

I am for proposed legislation, LD 51, An Act to Restore Religious and Philosophical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements.

My name is Julie Barter. I am a lifelong Maine resident, a wife to another lifelong resident, and have been a mother for 25 years. We are taxpayers in the town of Boothbay. I started homeschooling my children the year before this law was enacted. It was the best decision for our family. We are very blessed to be able to homeschool our children. I can not imagine feeling like I had to choose between my children's health care decisions, or providing them an education. It is very unfortunate that other Maine families are having to make these decisions. It is quite ridiculous that my children, and thousands of others in Maine, can't attend public school that we pay for, but can still go to the same schools to watch their friends and relatives at sporting events, or other school events open to the public. I guess we should be happy that places don't ask for our vaccine records at the door.

I exercised our religious freedom when my kids did attend school, and filed religious exemptions. God is our creator, and there is not one human on this great earth that can be justified in forcing something into our bodies that does not belong there; especially for public education. No law will ever supersede God's Word to us.

I encourage you to restore these exemptions so other Maine families who have very justifiable reasons to decline vaccinations have the right to do so.

Thank you for your time,

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BOOTHBAY
LD 51

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