

Heather Brenner-Simpson  
Ellsworth  
LD 51

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, I am asking you today to vote 'ought to pass' on LD 51.

Hi, my name is Heather and I'm fifteen years old. I am only in ninth grade, but I'm astonished that I even need to type something like this up. A teenager my age should be writing their five paragraph essay for English class, not the reasons that they should be able to be allowed to learn in a public school. I have two friends who go to Ellsworth public high school, one who is vaccinated, and the other who has a medical exemption. A few months ago, my vaccinated friend asked me if I wanted to join her at a school dance. At the high school that I'm not able to attend. I am also still able to go to shows and sports games there, living and breathing around all the kids who are fully vaccinated. The most absurd thing is that I can't participate in the theater program at the public high school, but I could play in the pit orchestra for that same play, think about that.

I am fully involved in my local community theater, acting right next to many kids who are fully vaccinated and go to public school. I also attend art classes and recitals, babysit public school children, and am looking forward to working my first local part time job this summer. So why can't I learn in my own town's public school? Why have I been told that the vaccine is completely safe, but know numerous people with vaccine injuries? Why can't I have a choice to put a foreign, man made substance into my body, in order to get a public education? I urge you to vote "Ought to pass", to give me my choice and my freedom back.

Thank you,  
Heather Brenner-Simpson  
Ellsworth, Maine