Sandi Day DAMARISCOTTA

Committee Members, I ask that you restore the religious and philosophical exemptions for both students and certain healthcare facilities by voting to reinstating LD 51.

If a person's religious beliefs, conflict with the vaccine mandate, I believe that is sufficient reason to allow an exemption.

Many students have been prevented from furthering their education when their religious or philosophical beliefs prevent them from taking the Covid Vaccine. Many colleges would not allow students to continue or begin their studies unless they were vaccinated. Passing LD 51 would allow those individuals to pursue their education. I would hope that you would do what you can to assure that government mandates do not prevent anyone from pursuing his or her education.

Not mandating the Covid immunization would not in any way interfere with the current immunization requirements. Passing LD 51 would allow those with religious or philosophical objections to make the decision that best aligns with their religious or philosophical beliefs.

Allowing religious and philosophical exemptions should be reinstated as they were deemed appropriate and workable before the onset of Covid.