

Jennifer Foley
Charleston
LD 51

Dear members of Maine's Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

Please support LDs 51, 869, 1098, 1148, 1209 and 1228 this session. These bills would restore religious and philosophical exemptions to vaccines and prevent COVID-19 vaccination requirements in Maine's public and private school systems, protecting education access for all children in Maine. Maine and national public health officials misled the public during the COVID-19 pandemic about the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines. Today, the data is clear that COVID-19 poses little risk to school-aged children, and this population has little to benefit from COVID-19 vaccination. In addition, the authorized COVID-19 vaccines do not stop people from contracting the disease or transmitting it to others. Despite these facts, public health officials used fear and panic to cajole education institutions to mandate these products on staff and students. This should never be allowed to happen again.

Implementing a mandate today is akin to kicking tens of thousands of students out of Maine's education system. Please learn from the mistakes of the pandemic and support LDs 51, 869, 1098, 1148, 1209, and 1228 this session. Thank you.

Sincerely,
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