

April 2, 2023

Dear Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

My name is Charles Frost a pharmacist living in Paris, Maine. I am also licensed to administer vaccines and volunteered to give Covid vaccinations during the height of the pandemic. I am writing to you to express my opposition the LD 51 and its related bills

Immunizations are recognized around the world as important tools for the control of certain infectious diseases. They are so important that in the United States pharmacists have been added to the list of healthcare professionals who are authorized to administer vaccines. This was done to increase access to them.

Immunizing both children and adults is a public health effort to control not only highly contagious infectious diseases but also prevent infections that may only affect an individual such as rabies, tetanus, and shingles.

Immunizing children not only protects them from highly contagious diseases but it also protects those who are unable to benefit from vaccines due to medical conditions. To allow childhood vaccinations to fall below the accepted levels considered necessary to protect the entire population is a public health mistake.

I also believe that vaccines have proven to be the single most significant medical advancements in disease prevention. To place restrictions on their use under "Emergency Use Authorization" is a mistake and extremely short sighted.

I ask that you consider the strength of immunization benefits and vote "ought not to pass" on LD51 and the other bills under consideration with it.

Thank you for your time and care in consideration of this very important health issue.

Yours truly,

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