

Haley Gauvin
Greenville
LD 51

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and members of the Education & Cultural Affairs Committee,

I am testifying in SUPPORT of L.D. 51, L.D. 869, L.D. 1098, L.D. 1148, L.D. 1209, and L.D. 1228.

I am a single mother to an 8 year old child and work full time as an Associate Director. When LD798 passed, our world was turned upside down. My daughter is missing two doses of a vaccine that she had a severe adverse reaction to as a baby. I fought for 5 years to get a medical exemption and was repeatedly denied without good reason.

My daughter was able to attend public Pre-K and Kindergarten with a philosophical exemption in place up until LD798 passed. Once that bill passed, she was segregated from her peers due to missing two doses of a vaccine.

Keeping my child safe was my top priority and always will be. I was forced to homeschool because of LD798. We are 3 years into this exhausting journey. As a single mother, who works full time to provide for her child while simultaneously homeschooling, I can tell you for certain that LD798 hurt our lives in a multitude of ways. Not only our lives, but it negatively impacted thousands of other families in the state of Maine. Our children deserve a right to public education and shouldn't be segregated from their peers because of religion, personal beliefs or adverse reactions.

Thank you for reading my testimony.

-Haley Gauvin