

Amanda Krantz
Westbrook
LD 51

To: Education and Cultural Affairs Committee 2020-2024

From: Amanda Krantz

Date: April 2, 2023

Re: Testimony in support of LD 51, LD 869, LD 1098, LD 1148, LD 1209 and LD 1228

My name is Amanda Krantz and I am a 20 year resident of Westbrook and a lifelong Mainer. I am submitting my testimony in support of LD LD 51, LD 869, LD 1098, LD 1148, LD 1209 and LD 1228 because these bills will directly impact the ability for my two children to graduate public school and attend college in the state of Maine. My oldest daughter is 15 and in grade 9. She has an IEP due to a specific learning disability. As a result of her IEP she is currently allowed to keep her non-medical exemption and remain in school as long as her IEP remains active. Based on the current law once she graduates from needing the IEP and/or the IEP is removed she would no longer be able to attend public school. As a result, there is little to no motivation for her to work hard in an effort to “graduate” from her IEP, as once she does, she will no longer be able to attend public school.

My youngest daughter is almost 13 and in grade 7. She is quite a good student and does not require any additional services from the school, such as an IEP. She has excellent feedback from her teachers and we often receive feedback that she offers a very positive social impact on her peers. She does not have the need for an IEP, requires no additional services and yet is at risk of being excluded from school, unlike her sister. Upon entering grade 7 she was required to obtain two vaccines. And, upon receipt of these she promptly developed a significant, uncomfortable and painful rash all over her body. This has happened with previous vaccines, although her health care providers deny any association, and in fact deemed me “non-compliant” when I chose to delay additional vaccines after observing this same reaction in the past. Reinstating the philosophical and religious exemptions will alleviate further suffering for my daughter in the future, and allow her to finish her education with her sister and her peer group.

A vote of Ought to Pass on LD 51 will allow children like mine to remain in school - preserve their regular interaction with their friends, allow them to remain in the sports and music programs in which they are are so heavily invested.

Thank you for your time and your consideration,
Amanda Krantz