

Sasha Kutsy
Belfast
LD 51

I do not want my name to be used in any publications.

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the committee, I am asking you to vote ought to pass on LD 51.

Since the removal of the religious exemption to vaccines in 2019, my family has been denied many services that our tax money pays for. As homeschooled children, my kids were looking forward to taking classes at the high school and the alternative education school. My son loves technology and was excited about classes at the Waldo Technical School. My daughter is an athlete and she has not been allowed to participate in any of the public school's sports. She has been asked to join the competitive cheering team, the soccer team, and the track team and has cried each time she had to tell the coaches that she was not able to get involved. A religious exemption would allow her to stay true to our faith and to also pursue her passion for sports.

We had been looking forward to staying in Maine as my children attend state colleges. At this time, they can not take early college classes and have no hope of going to college in the state. They have also been asked to leave the summer camp that they attend for years. This state has become a very sad place for them since the removal of the religious exemption and we will need to move in the near future.

It amazes me that the "my body, my choice" feeling does not extend to our personal and private medical choices. I urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD51.

Thank you for your time and heartfelt consideration,