Crystal Robinson Hope LD 51

Dear Honorable Members of This Committee

I am writing in support of LD 51 An Act to Restore Religious and Philosophical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements.

I and many others, that I know and love, have been negatively impacted by vaccine requirements. The economic impact has been huge as we have been forced to give up good jobs, have been denied access to certain public arenas, and are no longer able to enroll our children in school. Children, who are not fully vaccinated, are even banned from Little League. We are treated like social outcasts.

We do not need more division in this country. Laws like this create a them versus us mentality. While I hold no ill feelings toward others for their choices and do not go around crusading, I have been subject to hateful comments. I have been told to my face that people like me should be thrown in jail or that we deserve to die. That is scary.

Where is the data to prove that those who choose to delay, spread out, or refuse some or all immunizations are a danger to society? During my lifetime, I have learned to not judge medical professionals too harshly because they are humans "practicing" medicine. At the same time, I have learned to have a healthy skepticism about scientific claims. Scientists are not immune to the lust for power, prestige, and wealth. Overworked healthcare workers do not have the time to research all the data produced by pharmaceutical companies.

We are a Republic, with a constitution that limits the role of government so as to protect the individual and minorities from the excesses of a democracy which, unchecked by the rule of law according to our Constitution, inevitably leads to tyranny. I pray you see the wisdom in minimizing government regulation and pass LD 51.

Crystal Robinson Hope, Maine April 2, 2023