

Hello and thank you so much for your time.

My name is Sarah Morrill. I am a mother of four kids. The oldest is 16 and the youngest is 11. I am also a registered nurse. I am the Director of the Maranacook School Based Health Center in Readfield, ME.

I am testifying in opposition of LD1809. Legislation, such as LD1809 effectively ties the hands of healthcare providers when it comes to supporting students' access to healthcare. I am asking you to trust in the professionalism of the healthcare community and school staff. Please allow us to continue to use our skills and clinical judgment to protect the health of every student, without restrictions.

I am very concerned that healthcare has become polarized and politicized, to the detriment of both healthcare workers, and those we care for. Over the past several years, between the impact of the pandemic, and the state of our national politics, I worry that we have lost trust in one another.

I assure the members of this committee that healthcare workers did not arrive in our positions overnight. Nor do we have some political agenda, directing our decision making.

Let me also say that the healthcare workers serving our school communities show up every day because they are committed to helping kids through whatever they're facing. And trust me, our kids are facing a lot... every day. Our kids need to trust that the caring adults at their schools have their backs. And they need to gain trust in themselves as opportunities for critical thinking and decision making arise.

I can't speak for the staff at every school, but I feel comfortable saying here that literally everything goes better when there are supportive and engaged parents involved in kids' lives. Certainly, in healthcare situations, but also everything else too. When we are caring for a student, we encourage parental involvement every step of the way. I think that is worth repeating: we encourage parental involvement every step of the way.

That said, sometimes obtaining parental consent is a barrier to care, for almost as many reasons as there are unique situations. But I say again that we don't take this lightly and we do our due diligence in exploring the options every time.

In closing, I am asking you all not to restrict the clinical judgement of healthcare providers working in schools. LD1809 will prevent some students from accessing care that they need in order to succeed.

Sarah Morrill
Wayne
LD 1809

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