

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT FOR

L.D. 798

AN ACT TO PROTECT MAINE CHILDREN AND STUDENTS FROM  
PREVENTABLE DISEASES BY REPEALING CERTAIN EXEMPTIONS FROM  
THE LAWS GOVERNING IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Kim Bedard  
Kittery

Senator Millett, Representative Kornfield and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Steven Bailey, executive director of Maine School Management Association, and am here to testify on behalf of the legislative committee of the Maine School Boards Association in support of L.D. 798.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Susan Hawes  
Bangor

School Boards are keenly aware of the debate around mandatory vaccinations because we are in a unique position of representing all interested constituencies – parents, teachers, other school staff, taxpayers, and above all students.

VICE PRESIDENT

Lawrence Greenlaw  
Deer Isle-Stonington CSD

The issue for our association ultimately was decided by our obligation to not only educate children but keep them safe.

IMMEDIATE PAST  
PRESIDENT

Maureen King  
RSU 21

It is both common sense and borne out in practice that the only way to stop or slow the spread of communicable disease during an outbreak is to have children immunized. If there are exceptions to that rule the protection is weakened.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Steven W. Bailey

The vote to support L.D. 798 was not easy for our legislative committee because we have parents who hold strong beliefs around the safety of immunizations and whether or not it is better to spread them out over a period of time. We requested and received assurances from the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics that there is messaging going out to pediatricians to continue to work with vaccine-hesitant families, including determining a vaccine schedule that is acceptable to the family.

MAINE COUNCIL OF  
SCHOOL BOARD  
ATTORNEYS

Elek Miller, Esq., Chair

We appreciate the cooperation from our medical providers and support L.D. 798 because vaccinations are the most effective way to prevent the spread of disease and keep our children safe and healthy during an outbreak.