

TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 735, An Act to Allow Unimmunized Children to Attend School Upon Parental Waiver.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
Room 202, Cross State Office Building
Monday, March 23, 2009

Good afternoon Senator Alford, Representative Sutherland, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. I am Kellie Miller, Director of Public Health Policy of the Maine Medical Association (MMA), a professional organization representing more than 3000 physicians, residents, and medical students whose mission is *“to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine citizen,”* speaking in opposition to L.D. 735, An Act to Allow Unimmunized Children to Attend School Upon Parental Waiver.

We support the departments and the Maine Immunization Coalitions position on this bill that we should not weakened Maine’s exemption laws and should be concentrating our efforts on strengthening the laws and rules surrounding school mandated vaccines. And furthermore, we are not in any shape currently to do anything to Maine’s exemption laws – **we need to first return to a universal state and conduct a public education campaign on vaccines.**

We would be very interested in representing the medical community on a stakeholder group to study the school mandated vaccines, and what would work most efficiently to strengthen Maine’s exemption laws.

Thank you.