

Testimony By Stephen Schran

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My Name is Stephen Schran and I am a resident of New Gloucester Maine.

Let me make it clear to all those here today that I am opposed to this Bill 798 and there is nothing you can tell me that would make me change my position now or in the future. I base my opposition not on the ludicrous idea that the State can take away an exemption from a previous law with a new law. Because you see any law that gives a right can take that right away. The state had no right in the first place to give an exemption. Parents don't need an exemption. Folks we are dealing with a slippery slope! Let me be clear. The state has no right to tell a parent how to bring up their child. Unless of course you live in a dictatorship. That includes what he or she believes with regards to health and wellness. Frankly it doesn't matter if it is philosophical or religious belief based. The Parent has the right to make determinations for their child because they alone are responsible.

Let's get to the absurdities of the matter: Here's a quote from the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons dated 1999 entitled "Statement of the AAPS on Vaccines: Public Safety and Personal Choice,

Conclusions

"Public policy regarding vaccines is fundamentally flawed. It is permeated by conflicts of interest. It is based on poor scientific methodology (including studies that are too small, too short, and too limited in populations represented), which is, moreover, insulated from independent criticism. The evidence is far too poor to warrant overriding the independent judgements of patients, parents, and attending physicians, even if this were ethically or legally acceptable. Indeed, evidence is accumulating that serious adverse reactions are being ignored. Although this statement has focused on hepatitis B vaccine, similar questions should be raised about others as well."

Have you heard the expression "Ignorance is Bliss"? I had a phone conversation with one of the co-sponsors of LD 798, that being Rep. Bruce Bickford of Auburn. Keep in mind the Bill is two pages long. I asked Rep. Bickford a simple question; why did you co-sponsor the Bill? He shocked me by admitting that he never read the Bill. How many other legislators in our state don't bother to read bills? IGNORANCE IS NOT BLISS! Ignorance is dangerous and especially when it comes to children and ripping the rights of parents away to do what they believe is their duty to keep them safe from harm no matter who or what that harm may be!

Let's take a step into the future. God forbid 798 becomes Law. Do you really think caring parents are going to allow their children to be vaccinated against their wishes? Is our present Police State under the COPs program going to show up at a child's home and force a series of injections on them? Do you see the slippery slope that I mentioned earlier? This Bill 798 is flawed and any previous exemptions should never have been added in the past. Parents have rights. If you believe this nation is a free nation, then send 798 into the trash bin, never to be seen again!

Thank you,

Stephen Schran