

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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First Regular Session
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pages 1 -

Cosponsored by Senator DIAMOND of Cumberland, Representative AUSTIN of Gray.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative FAY of Raymond, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

On motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE** and later today assigned.

In Memory of:

Steven Charles Lane, of Franklin. A teacher, Mr. Lane began his career at Sullivan Grammar School before moving to Mountain View School, where he taught middle school for 41 years, coached various sports for 22 years and mentored several young teachers before retiring in 2015. He was devoted to his second family, the Jehovah's Witnesses. Mr. Lane will be long remembered and sadly missed by his wife of over 46 years, Mary Lou, his family and friends and all those whose lives he touched;

(HLS 395)

Presented by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Senator LUCHINI of Hancock, Representative LOCKMAN of Bradley.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor a great man. Steve Lane was a legend to Winter Harbor and the Sumner High School community. Steve touched the lives of thousands of students and members of the community. He taught for 41 years. Steve Lane was the greatest basketball player to ever come out of high school in Sumner. He played for the legendary coach, Jerry Kane, in the great Sumner teams of the late-60s and '70s. After high school, Steve went on to play for the University of Maine at Orono, having an extremely successful career. One of the stories that I used to love Steve telling me was how Orono was playing UMass, and that was when Dr. J. played for UMass at the time Steve Lane was the sixth man for Orono, and they didn't have a, they weren't allowed to dunk in college at that time and he said that Dr. J. skied so far over him and just dropped the ball down through the hoop and I can't even tell you how many times I've envisioned that in my mind.

After that, he went on to marry his sweetheart, Mary Lou, and they had two daughters, Miranda and Megan. I often say that Steve Lane was a childhood hero of mine, but that is only half true. He was a hero of mine in adulthood as well. He'll be sadly missed by myself and the entire community. Thank you.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **ADOPTED** and sent for concurrence.

The following item was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matter, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment, Thursday, May 16, 2019 had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

Expression of Legislative Sentiment Recognizing The Row House, Inc., of Hallowell

(HLS 79)

TABLED - February 21, 2019 (Till Later Today) by Representative WARREN of Hallowell.

PENDING - PASSAGE.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hallowell, Representative Warren.

Representative **WARREN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Women and Men of the House, I think we can all agree that the quaint little city of Hallowell is just a beautiful place to be and we have the ability today to honor the folks who make it so.

The Row House Organization is celebrating 50 years of work preserving the historic buildings in Hallowell. The organization was founded in 1969 when a group of civic-minded citizens decided to preserve Hallowell's history as told through its buildings. The first building they saved, the Row House, was built in 1846 for textile workers when they came to Hallowell. They saved the building and assured its addition to the national registry. Also in 1970, we saw the acceptance because of their work of Hallowell's historic district. The announcement of the acceptance of the district was made by Senators Margaret Chase Smith and Edmund Muskie.

The Row House has also saved many other historic properties and raised funds to renovate our beautiful 1899 Hallowell City Hall. The Row House has over 100 members and is still growing strong and doing lots of work to preserve our history. I just take this opportunity to say happy 50th anniversary to the Row House and thank you for doing all that you do to protect Hallowell's history.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH.**

The Speaker resumed the Chair.
The House was called to order by the Speaker.

The following item was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matter, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment, Thursday, May 16, 2019 had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

An Act To Protect Maine Children and Students from Preventable Diseases by Repealing Certain Exemptions from the Laws Governing Immunization Requirements

(H.P. 586) (L.D. 798)

(C. "A" H-120)

TABLED - May 16, 2019 (Till Later Today) by Representative STEWART of Presque Isle.

PENDING - PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED.

Representative STEWART of Presque Isle **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED.**

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Alfred, Representative Sampson.

Representative **SAMPSON**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. As of a week ago, throughout this state, in every corner, we have people grieving, heartbroken and stunned. This government, our government, their government, has disenfranchised them. They are now the unwanted. They don't matter. They are nothing but mere offscouring and legislators have said publicly go ahead, leave the state. It's shocking, it's appalling. How dare we strip the people of their rights; their religious rights?

My colleagues in this chamber have complained about being offended about this, that and the other thing. Here's a news flash; this isn't about you, this isn't about me, it's about the people of the state and whom we serve. This makes us servants, nothing more. We essentially have no right to be offended when we are the ones offending them in the most egregious manner. Our focus here should be to do no harm and to respond to the people. I have witnessed plenty of times where we have responded far more quickly to a far fewer number of people who have come and expressed their concerns. But not in this case. We have had a massive outpouring and we've received thousands of correspondence and discussions on this bill. Well over a thousand in-person communications, face to face meetings, emails, phone calls, but to no avail. How is this possible? These people have been turned away and actually told to leave the state. I'm disgusted and I'm shocked. Eighty percent of nearly 800 people testified in opposition of this bill. Think about that. Neighbors, friends, business owners, medical professionals, parents, grandparents, on and on. All shared their deeply-held concerns and in many cases backed it up with substantial evidence. But we as a body simply turned a deaf ear. Why are we here if not to serve the people of this state? This is certainly a funny way of demonstrating that service. Now these people are merely considered part of the unwashed masses and they are no longer welcome. Please remember, many of these same people have been in our midst with not a single shred of evidence that they have caused a single problem. It's all hysteria and hyperbole. We do not have a problem.

Let me make this abundantly clear; any government which uses overt acts to personally injure a person or that person's family demonstrates the ultimate betrayal of trust. This is by the very definition treachery. This act is a violation of the oath each and every one of us took stating we would uphold and honor our state's Constitution and the Constitution of the United States. Need I remind us all, the Constitution was designed to protect the minority. How dare we strip these people of their rights to protect their person and their families, and to strip them of their rights to a public education, to pursue their dreams here in Maine, to live peaceably amongst their neighbors? And, more significantly, to strip them of their religious rights and their religious freedoms which, by the way, is the very cornerstone this country's foundation is built upon. Furthermore, a rigorous condition imposed upon a people, one that is oppressive, harsh, and unjust, is nothing more than an act of tyranny. It is tyranny of the highest order.

I would like to challenge you, my colleagues, to soberly consider your actions. We're about to enact a bill but we can stop this. I want to be clear; the people will not go away quietly. We as a body have done them a huge disservice. They have been mocked, ridiculed, disenfranchised, dismissed, insulted, ignored, set up for ambush, bullied and stigmatized. Let me tell you, we've poked mama and papa

bear. We have ignited a fire within them and they will fight. Members here may not realize the injustice they have heaped upon these people with this most draconian measure. We have seriously overstepped our role and our oath of office. We have threatened their very existence and insulted them in the highest form. Did you not realize or observe their constant presence among us? Their grassroots efforts have been unprecedented and unparalleled. I want you to think about this. They aren't paid lobbyists. They're moms and dads, often with little kids in tow, business professionals who close their business to come here day after day just to try to reason with us. They wrote personalized emails, handwritten notes, they had face to face discussions, telephone calls, etcetera. Why were they so diligent? Have you considered this? They have everything to lose. They did their civic duty. They came, they spoke, over and over and over and over again. They participated in their government of the people and by the people but to no avail. Shame on us. So many here have been utterly tone-deaf to them.

Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of this House, we still have a chance to stop this. Are we really prepared to strip away the most fundamental rights we as a nation hold dear? If we strip this right away, what's next? Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, stop this madness. We must wake up. We are standing on very serious grounds because without liberties and rights we as a state are doomed. This is a game changer of seismic proportions. I ask that you stop this measure now. Do not enact this bill. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: There are 12 Members in the queue. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Knox, Representative Kinney.

Representative **KINNEY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I rise in opposition to the pending motion.

This bill is not about vaccination, it's about bad legislation. This bill will do nothing to promote public health in Maine. All public health experts understand that mandates should only ever be entertained as a last resort. Mandates breed animosity and resentment between mandator and mandated, and they only ever reduce all of our individual liberties. And, perhaps most importantly, mandates are woefully ineffective public health tools. This is because good public health always starts with respect, outreach, education and engagement. Mandates undermine all of those foundations of effective public health programs. At best, this bill would increase school vaccination rates by expelling unvaccinated children from the school, even though most of these unvaccinated are only missing a booster or may be on a different schedule for their vaccinations. But these expelled students will not vanish. Now they will simply be ostracized, more remote from any real public health system that would engage them and educate them and their families about the benefits of vaccination.

Proponents of this bill say there is a 5% unvaccinated rate in schools but the way things are counted, someone who has had all but one shot, as I said, is considered unvaccinated. There's no available data distinguishing the child who's gotten no vaccines from the child who's gotten all but one. This lack of understanding represents atrocious public health policy which always requires comprehensive data and robust positive engagement with any population that is sought to be influenced in a positive health direction. This bill will not advance public health in Maine, quite the contrary. I myself am not against vaccination. In fact, my children have received every vaccination to date, and I was vaccinated all the way through

my life. I even get the flu shot every year, which is one that's very controversial. I'm also a Rotarian and I'm very much in support of the polio vaccine, which has eradicated the disease from most of the world. There's generally most years less than a hundred cases that come up around the globe. However, this bill strips the peoples' constitutional right to their religious freedom.

Please follow my light in opposition to this unconstitutional legislation. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Augusta, Representative Fecteau.

Representative **FECTEAU**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and excuse the allergies. There's a lot in this bill and it's extremely easy to not fully understand or even misreport who LD 798 targets. This bill goes after both public and private school students. It also applies to our universities, healthcare providers, trade schools, online schools, camps and rec programs, and even daycares. This isn't a bill that just shuts the door to public schools, it shuts the door to almost everyplace a child can go. This bill turns our children into 21st century lepers. This bill will dispatch our Maine children from their society. Fast-forwarding a bit, this is what we could witness: Auburn, 143 public and private school kids removed from school; Augusta, 145 public and private school students expelled from school; Bangor, 205 public and private school children won't make the cut; Bath, 81 public and private school kids with religious beliefs will be disregarded; Belfast, 63 public and private school kids kicked out of school; Biddeford, 60 public and private school students expelled from their society; Blue Hill, 97 public and private school students will be disregarded; Brewer, 52 public and private school kids with religious beliefs will be forced from school; Brunswick, 89 public and private school children's beliefs will be ignored; Cape Elizabeth, 73 public and private kids will be forced to give up their bodily autonomy; Caribou, 60 public and private students will have to have a needle put into their arm against their consent; Cumberland, 105 public and private school children will be removed from their society; Dover-Foxcroft, 51 public and private school students will go without an education; Falmouth, 70 public and private school students will be given a confusing message about consent; Farmington, 85 public and private school kids will be forced out by their government; Freeport, 87 public and private school children will be removed from school; Fryeburg, 52 public and private school kids kicked out of school; Gardiner 60 public and private school children will be disregarded; Gorham, 88 public and private school kids with religious beliefs will be forced from school; Hampden, 65 public and private school kids will be forced out by their government; Houlton, 55 public and private school children won't make the cut; Kennebunk, 69 public and private school children's beliefs will be ignored; Kittery, 51 public and private school students will go without an education; Lewiston, 193 public and private school kids will be forced out by their government; Lisbon, 66 public and private school students will have to have a needle put into their arm against their consent; New Gloucester, 56 public and private school students expelled from school; North Berwick, 90 public and private school children will be removed from their society; Old Town, 58 public and private school students will go without an education; Pittsfield, 61 public and private school students will have to have a needle put into their arm against their consent; Poland, 58 public and private school students kicked out of school; Portland, 267 public and private school children's beliefs will be ignored; Rockport, 50 public and private school children won't make the cut; Saco, 124 public and private

students expelled from school; Sanford, 100 public and private school children will be removed from their society; Scarborough, 116 public and private school children's beliefs will be ignored; Skowhegan 86 public and private school kids with religious beliefs will be forced from school; South Berwick, 89 public and private school students expelled from school; South Paris, 76 public and private school kids will be forced out by their government; South Portland, 157 public and private school kids will be forced out by their government; Standish, 102 public and private students will have to have a needle put into their arm against their consent; Topsham, 60 public and private school students will go without an education; Turner, 52 public and private school children won't make the cut; Waldoboro, 64 public and private school students will go without an education; Waterville, 63 public and private kids kicked out of school; Westbrook, 65 public and private school kids with religious beliefs will be forced from school; Windham, 104 public and private school children's beliefs will be ignored; Winslow, 71 public and private school students expelled from school; Yarmouth, 79 public and private school students will go without an education; York, 68 public and private school kids will be forced out by their government. This is a horrible message to send to our neighbors. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hampden, Representative Haggan.

Representative **HAGGAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Maine has a childhood vaccination rate at 95%. We simply don't need this bill. If it becomes law, we are likely to see a drop in toddler vaccination rates, as did California, after this kind of mandate became law. How can we mandate an intervention that has numerous well-known and significant risks that attach to them? It is all the worse when you consider that if something does go wrong, the manufacturers have complete and total immunity from suit. And what impact does that immunity have on safety testing that goes into these vaccines which are well-known to be fast-tracked through the FDA approval process without any double-blind placebo studies of the sort required for all other medications.

This bill assumes that vaccines are safe, when in fact they are not safe at all. The government has paid out more than \$4 billion since 1986 to those injured by vaccines. The bill assumes that vaccines lead to perfect immunity but this is not true. The CDC has acknowledged that the TDAP is less than 70% effective against pertussis, and there are numerous examples of mumps and measles outbreaks in fully-vaccinated populations. This bill is based on misdirection and, easy for me to not say, obfuscation. This bill is a dangerous bill. I will be opposing it. Thank you.

Under suspension of the rules, members were allowed to remove their jackets.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chester, Representative Javner.

Representative **JAVNER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I will read one portion of the Nuremberg Code. The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential. This means that the person involved should have legal capacity to give consent; should be so situated as to be able to exercise free power of choice without the intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, overreaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion;

and should have sufficient knowledge and comprehension of the elements of the subject matter involved as to enable him to make an understanding and enlightened decision. This latter element requires that before the acceptance of an affirmative decision by the experimental subject there should be made known to him the nature, duration and purpose of the experiment; the method and means by which it is to be conducted; all inconveniences and hazards reasonably to be expected; and the effects upon his health or person which may possibly come from his participation in the experiment. The duty and responsibility for ascertaining the quality of the consent rests upon each individual who initiates, directs or engages in the experiment. It is a personal duty and responsibility which may not be delegated to another with impunity.

Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House, my son is not your human subject in this global science experiment. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Gray, Representative Austin.

Representative **AUSTIN**: Madam Speaker, good morning. Men and Women of the House, serving as a lawmaker, I often struggle at the end of day reconciling the changes that affect each and every one of our people. I often think of the network of legislation like a patchwork quilt. But unlike a designer of quilts who puts such artistry and effort into every piece of cloth, aligning the squares as edges meet, our work is a work of many with varied abilities and experiences and rather than one designer, we are 151 squares pulling and positioning for a space within the quilt. In an overview, our work can have some discrepancies, anomalies, and some puckered stitching spots that don't always interface smoothly with the people of Maine.

Take, for instance, the recent issue of addressing vaccinations. During the hearing, work sessions, and subsequent chamber votes, we witnessed one of the strongest, largest interactive and engaging presence here in these halls by families of young children living in our districts. They stepped out of their comfort zones into an unfamiliar realm of rules and protocols to stand up for their well-informed opinions, for their sensitivity to wellness, and to safe procedures and precautions around preventative care. They broke through the state veneer that often surrounds these halls and rooms, baring their heart and their soul to legislators. They wrote, they spoke, they called, and they appealed to our capacity to understand and empathize with their desire for a fundamental consideration and it went like this. Let us through informed consideration exercise the right to care, educate, and raise our children in a healthy fashion in accordance with our sacred parental rights. Their presence on this issue embodied one of the most significant outpouring of parental concern on many levels that we have had the luxury to witness and experience.

This has given us an opportunity to continue to engage in a partnership with the parents who are highly involved in raising their children and our next generation of Mainers who we so deeply care about. Consider this isn't about lower taxes or energy costs, roads and bridges, not even about the debate to reach 55% of educational spending. This is about a very personal, intimate, philosophical family right and responsibility, one that dives deep into the inalienable right to make choices, applying them to actual care of one's body. It goes to the very core of parental oversight and exercising protection. If we force-feed our will, our attitudes, our positions on this issue, we will be interfering with one of the strongest, most primal instinct

and bond known to man and woman; the right to care and protect for their young.

Allow our families to make sound individual decisions for immunization protocols that are best for each and every one of their children. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Levant, Representative Griffin.

Representative **GRIFFIN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. A couple weeks ago, numerous impassioned speeches were delivered on the House Floor in support of women's rights to choose. No one, no politician, should ever become between a person and their healthcare provider. Yet when it comes to that same mother's right to choose what gets injected into her child, the same legislators have no hesitation about eliminating freedom of choice.

The bill expels up to 9,000 children from the school per Department of Education and will result in trauma from being torn from their friends and beloved afterschool activities. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Milford, Representative Drinkwater.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise for the second time in this House as a freshman. And, you know, I serve on the Education Committee and there's very few things that come along that I really feel passionate about. This is one of them.

I was there for 13 hours, heard the testimonies of vaccine injuries. And, you know, in the book of Proverbs it says that a wise man learns from the mistakes of others. As a parent, I sat there and was thinking, you know, what would I have done differently knowing what we know today that we didn't know back in the '70s? But that's not where I want to land on this debate. I see this debate as two sides; one, you've got the vaccination side and, two, you've got the religious exemption. Well, on the vaccination side, we are at 95% of getting close to herd immunity. So, obviously, this debate is not about herd immunity because we're at 95%. And if you were really serious about reaching herd immunity, well, the staff at every school should have their records updated. So, nowhere in this bill that I read that teachers or administrators, they need to get reintroduced to some vaccinations.

So, I look at this bill as an actual attack on religion. Our Founding Fathers came to this country because of persecution of religion. This country was founded on the principles of religion. So, I'm seeing the side of it that says we are going to show you that religion takes second place to herd immunity. I cannot believe we as a body would stoop to that point that we feel that we have to force this issue on people that are generally afraid of having their child immunized because of their learning from the mistakes of others. They saw the \$4 billion that's been paid out. That's the one good thing about the internet, there's a lot of information out there, good and bad. So, even last night, people were knocking; in my community, the little town of Milford, handing out brochures about this bill and obviously they were concerned, and they had little children with them. They're very concerned, Madam Speaker. So, what I'm witnessing here is a grassroots movement of parents that are concerned. We heard the statistics; 6,000 kids that are going to have to either be vaccinated or tossed out of school. That's just not right.

So, in closing, I'd just like to quote a great American, John Paul Jones, and these are what the people are telling me, that we've only begun to fight. Thank you, Madam.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Berwick, Representative O'Connor.

Representative **O'CONNOR**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Herd immunity is a myth but herd immunity mentality is alive and well. What herd puts its most fragile members on the outside, vulnerable to prey? With less than 20% of Maine adults vaccinated for the things that LD 798 would require, why on earth are we forcing these vaccines on our most vulnerable citizens, our babies and our children, instead of protecting them by requiring adult vaccinations? Why are we pretending that reaching the so-called herd immunity of 95% vaccination rate among children when every adult they interact with has no vaccine requirements?

This bill is not about protecting children. This bill isn't about herd immunity, community immunity or protecting the immune compromised. This bill is about segregating a small minority of children, likely the most vulnerable ones, and denying them a lifetime of education in this state. Where is your conscience? What do you say to your constituents who are begging you to protect these children? What do you say to the parents and healthcare workers who have clearly stated I do not consent? This bill is fundamentally wrong, no matter what one thinks about the merits of vaccination. It aims to force Mainers to submit to medical intervention to which they do not freely consent. If the State can forcibly inject its citizens against their will, there is no power which the State cannot reserve for itself, no matter the destructive impact on all of our civil liberties. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair will remind Members to carefully choose your language to not question the character or impugn the character or the motive of another Member. In this previous example, I did not interrupt the Member, but this is my warning and I will interrupt Members from this point forward if that is done again.

The Chair reminded all members that it was inappropriate to question the motives of other members of the House.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Reed.

Representative **REED**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise also in opposition to the bill.

I'm not going to prolong this with a lot of testimony. I just want to say I don't oppose the bill because I'm against protecting kids from diseases. I've had both of my children immunized at the appropriate time and I consider myself a fairly religious man. But I did it of my own volition and therein lay the problem that I have with this bill. I have problems not only with this bill but with all bills that violate in any way the basic rights guaranteed by the Constitution to citizens of our great country and to those of our state. This bill, in my mind, removes a person's right to object to immunization of children on the basis of religion or conscience, and therefore, I'm opposed to this bill.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion and I rise for the dozens of people who have been in these halls everyday while this has been going on. I rise for the hundreds of people who came to testify in opposition to this, and the thousands of Mainers who are going to be affected by this.

LD 798 removes personal choice and where there is risk, there must be choice. Maine's vaccination rates are very high when compared to most of the nation. Our rates meet or exceed the levels that provide herd immunity. There have only been two deaths of measles in the last 25 years in the entire country, not even here in Maine, in the entire country. This bill is a solution in search of a problem. The fact is that Maine and nationwide, the vast majority of people who have contracted any of these highly politicized conditions like measles, pertussis, were actually vaccinated for them. So why target 5% of Mainers who have exercised their right not to vaccinate? And when I use the term not vaccinate, I use that term loosely because most of the 5% of these people that are being targeted have vaccinated and they are vaccinating but they're doing it on their own schedule, not the government's schedule. They want to do it on their own terms, not the mandated terms that this law creates. This bill scapegoats a small minority for a problem that is not of their making. We are better than this. I urge the Members today to think carefully about their vote and reconsider the vote they've taken in the past and do not enact this. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lincoln, Representative Hanington.

Representative **HANINGTON**: Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I also rise to echo my sentiments, the sentiments of my good colleagues. I oppose the pending motion. The reason being, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen; Friday the 13th, 1998, I was 35 years old and I stood up in Portland and I raised my hand. I didn't have to, but I raised my hand to defend the Constitution of the State of Maine and the Constitution of the United States. And with that said, also being a man of God, this is, in my opinion, segregating our rights.

Madam Speaker, when we went overseas, we had to have seven shots of the anthrax virus and I got five, so does that make me unvaccinated? No, it don't. I also didn't get the measles vaccine because me being born three and a half months early, a weakened immune system, my mother decided that the measles vaccine wasn't for me and my sister. My other three siblings received it. So does that make me unvaccinated? No, it don't. I also, my wife and I, my ex-wife, we had all of the vaccinations that our children needed.

I see this as a piece of legislation that is infringing on my religious liberties. We as parents, we should be able to not have the interference of the government. And we also know in the Constitution it says that one reason why a lot of people might say that we cling to our guns is because the simple fact is, we have the right to stand up against an intrusive government. And this, if we continue down this road, Madam Speaker, that we have been going, I don't know in my lifetime, maybe my children or my grandchildren, I've got four and the fifth one's on the way, I'm afraid where we're headed. This is why I oppose this, because it takes the rights away from us as the religious community to do what's right for us as parents. Who knows best by our parents and that's the trouble we're in today is because we're living in such a culture that the parents did not have; no, I won't even go there, but I oppose the pending motion and I respect everyone to follow my light.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Vassalboro, Representative Bradstreet.

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I'm standing in opposition to the pending motion.

I believe we need a little perspective here. We've all heard the pros and cons regarding vaccinations. They're very

effective and my children all had their vaccinations. But that's not what I'm talking about here. We're not charged with defending religion but we are charged with protecting the freedom of religion for other people; a right enshrined in our Constitution regardless of whether or not we agree with a particular religious conviction. We're talking about the right to hold religious beliefs without being punished for them, which is what this bill is doing. We need to give this a lot of thought prior to casting our votes today.

Madam Speaker, when I look at where this bill takes us, along with others that this body has considered lately, I'm very concerned that we are on a path of being way too dismissive of other people's constitutional rights. So I'm offering a strong message of caution and reminder. In our zeal to advocate for certain causes, we must not lose sight of other people's constitutionally protected rights. We all need to remember that. It's what we promised to do when we took our oaths. Please vote against this bill. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Canaan, Representative Stetkis.

Representative **STETKIS**: Good morning. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand in strong opposition to this bill.

This bill has been sold as a public school vaccine bill and, make no mistake, it goes far beyond public schools. This bill removes the right to opt out of even a single dose of a single vaccine for every Mainer in every school, public or private. From nursery school all the way through every college and university, trade schools and even online charter schools. Every child in daycare must be fully vaccinated with a much more extensive vaccine schedule. Every Maine baby whose parents must work and send their children to school outside of the home will be required at birth to vaccinate for even the hepatitis B, which is a disease that is transmitted through sexual activity and IV drug use. How can we possibly justify mandating this for newborns?

Another consideration must be the healthcare employee shortage and how these types of mandates will likely create waitlists and backlogs.

I feel the most important reason to oppose this legislation is that every Christian parent who declines vaccines made with aborted fetal DNA can no longer send them to their private religious school. Every Jewish or Muslim believer and possibly even a vegan who refuses vaccines created from animal ingredients based on their religious and conscientious objections will also be denied these educational benefits.

Maine cannot afford to chase out any more hardworking families than we already have with more government overreach banning thousands of children from a lifetime of education in our state.

Madam Speaker, I will always defend our parental and religious rights. Ladies and gentlemen, please, let's rethink what we are doing here on this bill today and oppose this legislation. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lisbon, Representative Mason.

Representative **MASON**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I again stand for the second time in this body in opposition to LD 798.

You truly can't believe my body, my choice, and also believe in mandatory vaccinations. I do not believe the people that are against this bill will go away on this issue. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dexter, Representative Foster.

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. The reason I rise in opposition to this bill today is very simple; I am concerned that once again the 129th Legislature, if this is enacted, will be seen as a Legislature who chose, time and time again, to step between parents and their children, telling them that we know better than you on how they should be raised.

As I've said before in this House, current law is adequate, it's been in place for many, many years, and there is no past history or recent history where that it is not sufficient for handling the administration of vaccinations and the choice that parents have in that regard in the State of Maine. And I request that all of you consider your vote before we pass this legislation with that in mind. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Pittston, Representative Hanley.

Representative **HANLEY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I had a prepared speech but I'm not going to read that because I got something better. I got a letter here from a citizen of Maine.

Dear Governor Mills, my name is Leah Ferrell. I live in Topsham with my husband and our children. I own and operate a well-established and successful small business which allows me to make a good living while also being flexible and raise my kids. My children are ten, four and three. They're all healthy and happy, well-adjusted kids that are also not vaccinated. This is a choice that I've agonized over for as long as I have been a parent. I have read and watched so much material on this topic over the years and I do not take it lightly. Our primary care physician and I have an ongoing dialogue about our concerns regarding this matter, as well. He has been wonderful about it, validating my feelings and my choice to withhold vaccines from my children at this time. We are also practicing Catholics and are concerned about the vaccines being cultured with aborted fetal tissues as this goes against our faith. If LD 798 is signed into law, my thriving almost fifth-grader will have to be removed from his school. My son is preparing to begin kindergarten this fall and is beyond excited and ready for this new development both academically and socially. In September 2021, he would be getting ready to start second grade but would no longer be allowed to attend if this bill is signed into law. My youngest child is set to begin kindergarten in September 2021, and again would be unable to do so if this becomes law in Maine. In order to accommodate the need to homeschool my children because of the bill, I would also be forced to close my small business, lose my family's second income, which we desperately depend on, and lay off my staff. My husband, who has been a public school teacher in the same school for the past 20 years, would have to show up to work daily, nurturing and educating other people's children while being reminded daily that although he is a law-abiding, productive member of his community and state, his own children are discriminated against and denied the privilege of attending a public school that we are forced to pay taxes to help fund. Governor Mills, my husband and I both voted for you to lead this state and to represent us and our community. Please veto this bill and spare my family from what we believe is government overreaching infringing on our basic rights. Thank you, Leah Ferrell.

This woman I know very well, she's my niece, she sent this to me this morning and, as you can tell, a highly interested, highly educated and highly agitated person.

Think about this; the State demands that a child be educated, so if we kick 6,000 children out of school and the

parents they go home to cannot and aren't capable of educating them, what happens? Do the police show up in three years and take their children from them because they failed to fulfill another state law of educating their children? They're caught in a Catch-22 situation.

Also, what about going out in public? The claim is you need to protect children from children in school. Do you take your children shopping? Do you take them to the movies? To a county fair? To a church? How do you know if people are vaccinated when you're in those situations? You don't.

An unnecessary piece of legislation. And, again, this is the freedom of choice. This is the parent's choice and not ours. I ask you to follow my light and reject this terrible piece of legislation. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Topsham, Representative Tepler.

Representative **TEPLER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker and I have a very short statement to make. I am highly offended that as a practicing Jew there are members of this body who would tell me what my belief system consists of. They are incorrect, A, and B, my second point, it is absolutely offensive to compare mandating vaccines to the Holocaust. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Rumford, Representative Dolloff.

Representative **DOLLOFF**: Good morning, Madam Speaker, thank you. Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I believe there's a lot of misinformation in this bill. We stood here last week and the week before and pounded how women have rights, you know, we got to stay for the right of let the woman decide what to do with their bodies. Well, if we decide that, then why do we take away their right to decide this?

On a personal note, I am a carrier of Lyme disease. I had a friend that had a daughter, and the baby was born with Lyme disease. That beautiful child is now my niece-in-law who just had a new baby, my new great-nephew. If we start vaccinating him at three months old, and then at six, we don't know yet if little Nick is a carrier of Lyme disease or not, when her mother was pregnant with her, she contracted it from her mother. These vaccinations; he is such a healthy little boy but it makes me so nervous to think if we give it to him too soon and being a carrier of Lyme and we don't know, even though his mother is, what this could happen to him.

So I please, people, think about what we're doing here. I'm not against vaccinations, I vaccinated my kids, I choose not to have a flu vaccination and that's because of my Lyme condition, I know what it can do to your body. But I'm nervous for my little brand-new nephew and I hope to God these vaccinations are done when we know everything is safe with this precious little baby and will not do him any harm. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dixfield, Representative Pickett.

Representative **PICKETT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This bill, LD 798, targets a small minority of Mainers who have announced through their use of religious and medical exemptions that they do not consent to an invasive medical procedure. It then threatens to bar these same Mainers from central aspects of life; school for students of all ages, whole categories of employment, unless they submit to the very intervention to which they do not consent.

If this bill becomes law, it can only fail. Even if it succeeds on its own terms by forcing people to vaccinate, it

will fail our state by undermining our most precious values of choice and liberty. It will fail our state by segregating thousands of innocent kids from their peers and sending the message that they are dirty, dangerous, and contagious when, Madam Speaker, we know they are not. This kind of stigma has no place in our state and I would urge members of this body from both parties to take a strong stance against it. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Stonington, Representative McDonald.

Representative **McDONALD**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yesterday, health officials in New Hampshire issued a warning confirming a child in their state has been diagnosed with measles. This morning, Waterville Pediatrics in Waterville, Maine, released a statement confirming a case of measles has been diagnosed here in Maine. The time to protect our children from the reintroduction of dangerous and preventable diseases is now. Thankfully, we are also receiving reports from Maine pediatricians that because of this proposed legislation, parents are bringing their children in for immunizations because they will need them for school. The following is a letter we received from a parent who will be thankful if we pass this legislation.

The vaccine bill I'm working on to support is certainly polarizing. For some, requiring vaccinations for children to attend school feels like it is focused on the children that are not vaccinated. But, in reality, this is about those who are often invisible and truly vulnerable; the children that go to school or daycare every day and are at risk from their unvaccinated peers. My otherwise healthy son was diagnosed with a chronic and life-threatening autoimmune condition when he was three, out of the blue. We were knocked off our feet but once we had been discharged from a hospital stay, I naively thought the hardest part was behind us. He was put on a medication that kept his condition under control while at the same time lowering his immunity. Deciding to return to daycare was hard, but he had excellent care from people who I trust. I checked with his daycare director to see if all his peers were immunized so that I could better understand his risk. To my relief, all his classmates were up to date. Not two weeks later, I was told that scenario had changed and now there was an unvaccinated child. Due to privacy rules, we never spoke about who that child was but I deduced it was a new addition. I foolishly thought that since my son had been there for years that he could be prioritized and this new child's family would need to find care elsewhere. Then I read the laws. All the language served to preserve this new child's philosophical rights but nothing was there to allow them to protect my son. I sobbed in the director's office when she told me but their hands were tied. My son's needs were unrecognized in Maine's law, as if he did not exist, and I had an overwhelming feeling of loneliness. The burden was now on us. The family feeling was so much to carry the weight of constant worry about something we have no control over. It felt wrong that the load would be thrust upon my family or any family with a child suffering from cancer, catastrophic allergens, type 1 diabetes, who had undergone an organ transplant or had a myriad of other possible medical conditions that led he or she to being immunocompromised, when perfectly healthy kids were able to skip vaccines. Living in this half of the story, I can tell you this is the undertone that these unvaccinated children, there is an undertone that these unvaccinated children deserve this protection. In the eyes of some, they are pristine and untouched. The children deserve this protection, oh, sorry, the specimen of health, while my son was tarnished and broken,

disposable. I carry this feeling with me but never talked about it. It was and still is so heavy. Yesterday I finally saw in writing a statement by a mom that put into words this fear. It is them, the sick kids, that should have to stay out of school. It is not my fault they are weak like this. I felt numb. It was confirmation of all of those negative thoughts that surfaced the day I learned that no one could protect my son in his beloved daycare. I have no idea how this bill will turn out but one thing I do know is that all the ugliness, resentment, and sadness I felt for us being alone in this is no longer our story. While testifying at the State House or holding a sign in the Senate hallway, I have met amazing people who dedicate their time to advocating for children just like my son, who have stood up and said that this is not okay, that there is a responsibility to protect those that may be injured by others' risky behavior and not to protect the risky behavior itself. Even if they do not know him, they want to protect him. When I heard House and Senate legislators speak in favor of the bill and defend the protection of vulnerable kids, it made me weep all over again but for different reasons. I'll end with the admission that there is no conceivable way that both sides of this equation can come out on the winning end, but I can say that we have served our time on the losing end of this law and I will no longer roll over and let that be our narrative. Please join me in supporting LD 798.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I rise once again in opposition to this bill.

This bill targets a small minority of Mainers who have announced through their religious and medical exemptions that they do not consent to an invasive medical procedure. It then threatens to bar these Mainers from central aspects of life; school for children, students of all ages and all categories, employment, unless they consent to the very intervention that, Madam Speaker, we cannot take the right of parents away from them. It is the right of a parent to decide whether or not they want to put poison in their child's body. If this bill becomes law, it can only fail. It can fail the State of Maine, it can fail our state, and take the most precious values away, our choice and liberty. I urge Members of both parties to take a strong stance against this bill. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Belgrade, Representative Keschl.

Representative **KESCHL**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. When I first reviewed this bill, to looking at where I would stand on the issue, I was thinking about what happened in history, right? So I looked to the CDC on a number of the varied diseases to look at the rates, the trends, for a number of the diseases that we're talking about requiring vaccinations. For many of these diseases, from about 1900 to 1940, the disease incidence in terms of numbers per hundred thousand were approximately 12 to 14 per hundred thousand. In 1940, those disease incidence rates started to plummet until 1962 for measles when they went down to about 0.2, roughly a 98-99% reduction. Why was that? This was a year before measles vaccinations were introduced. My understanding of the cause was hygiene. The ability to have access to hygiene was made much more available. So, I ask, am I really ready to mandate people to have something put into their bodies or their child's bodies when the disease incidence since 1962, for measles, has remained about roughly the same, right about .2, plus or minus, cases per hundred thousand. I'm not ready to mandate that.

I understand the value of vaccinations, I truly do, and I would urge everyone to vaccinate, and I would educate people who really don't understand the issues of vaccinations, but I'm not ready to mandate anyone to introduce something in their body with this data and I urge you to vote against the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Orono, Representative Tipping.

Representative **TIPPING**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, this bill is about protecting children. It is about making sure the places where our kids spend most of their waking hours are safe from preventable diseases.

Throughout the length of the debate on this bill, there has been a lot of misinformation and it has continued through to today. I want to correct for the record a couple of misstatements that were made earlier, including one claim of a vaccine being required on the schedule that is not, and several claims of what our exemption rates are currently in the State of Maine.

The last numbers that came out March 7th of 2019 said 6.4% was the number of people claiming medical exemptions for kindergartners. That leaves 93.6% are fully following the vaccine schedule. But it's not that number, the state by state statewide numbers for kindergarten or seventh grade, that is keeping parents awake at night. It's when parents look at the numbers produced by the survey from the Maine CDC and see their own school is at 20%, 30%, 40% or in some cases in Maine over 50% exemption for some diseases. It's after this state and people across the country have tried and tried and put millions and millions of dollars in education and yet even members of this body can't get the facts fully straight when they talk about this issue. It's at that point, when parents are looking at these numbers and they're seeing the place where their kids spend the majority of their waking hours open to the introduction of preventable diseases. It's at that point that they ask their state to take action. Madam Speaker, this bill is about protecting children. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Paris, Representative Andrews.

Representative **ANDREWS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill takes away choice, body autonomy and individual liberty. This bill is the majority using the power of the State to impose its will on an unwilling minority. It is wrong and this motion must be opposed. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Passage to be Enacted. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 105

YEA – Austin B, Babbidge, Babine, Bailey, Beebe-Center, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Carney, Cloutier, Collings, Cooper, Craven, Crockett, Daughtry, Denk, Dodge, Doudera, Dunphy, Evangelos, Farnsworth, Fecteau R, Foley, Gattine, Gramlich, Grohoski, Handy, Harnett, Hepler, Hobbs, Hubbell, Hymanson, Ingwersen, Jorgensen, Kessler, Kornfield, Kryzak, Landry, Madigan C, Martin J, Martin R, Mastraccio, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, McDonald, McLean, Melaragno, Meyer, Moonen, Morales, Nadeau, O'Neil, Paulhus, Pebworth, Peoples, Pierce T, Reckitt, Riseman, Roberts-Lovell, Rykerson, Schneck, Sharpe, Sheats, Stewart, Stover, Strom, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tipping, Tucker, White B, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Ackley, Andrews, Arata, Austin S, Bickford, Blier, Bradstreet, Campbell, Cebra, Corey, Costain, Curtis,

Dillingham, Dolloff, Drinkwater, Faulkingham, Fay, Fecteau J, Foster, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanington, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hickman, Higgins, Hutchins, Javner, Johansen, Keschl, Kinney, Lockman, Lyford, Marean, Martin T, Mason, Millett, Morris, O'Connor, Ordway, Perkins, Perry A, Perry J, Pickett, Pluecker, Prescott, Reed, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Swallow, Theriault, Tuell, Verow, Wadsworth, Warren, White D.

ABSENT - Alley, Cuddy, DeVeau, Doore, Grignon, Maxmin, Riley.

Yes, 79; No, 62; Absent, 7; Excused, 2.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 62 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Representative FECTEAU of Biddeford moved that the House **RECONSIDER** its action whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECONSIDER** whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Presque Isle, Representative Stewart.

Representative **STEWART**: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the pending motion as the Clerk will be in possession of an amendment which our side hopes to offer on this bill. Therefore, I would request that Members follow my light in voting in favor of this motion so that we may reconsider this bill and potentially conduct other business thereby related to it. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Moonen.

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Women and Men of the House, I rise in opposition to the motion to reconsider this bill. We have debated it three times and we have voted on it three times and it's pretty clear to me at this point that people know how they feel about this bill and the issue contained within the bill. So, for that reason, I think we should be done with it, and I ask everyone to vote against reconsideration and follow my light. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Reconsideration whereby the Bill was Passed to be Enacted. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 106

YEA - Ackley, Andrews, Arata, Austin S, Bickford, Blier, Bradstreet, Campbell, Cebra, Corey, Costain, Curtis, Dillingham, Dolloff, Drinkwater, Faulkingham, Fecteau J, Foster, Gramlich, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanington, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hickman, Higgins, Hutchins, Javner, Johansen, Keschl, Kinney, Lockman, Lyford, Marean, Martin T, Mason, Millett, Morris, O'Connor, Ordway, Perry A, Pickett, Prescott, Reed, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Stewart, Strom, Swallow, Theriault, Tuell, Verow, Wadsworth, Warren, White D.

NAY - Austin B, Babbidge, Babine, Bailey, Beebe-Center, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Carney, Cloutier, Collings, Cooper, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Daughtry, Denk, Dodge, Doudera, Dunphy, Evangelos, Farnsworth, Fay, Fecteau R, Foley, Gattine, Grohoski, Handy, Harnett, Hepler, Hobbs, Hubbell, Hymanson, Ingwersen,

Jorgensen, Kessler, Kornfield, Kryzak, Landry, Madigan C, Martin J, Martin R, Mastraccio, Matlack, McCreia, McCreight, McDonald, McLean, Melaragno, Meyer, Moonen, Morales, Nadeau, O'Neil, Paulhus, Pebworth, Peoples, Perry J, Pierce T, Pluecker, Reckitt, Riley, Riseman, Roberts-Lovell, Rykerson, Schneck, Sharpe, Sheats, Stover, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tipping, Tucker, White B, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

ABSENT - Alley, DeVeau, Doore, Grignon, Maxmin, Perkins.

Yes, 61; No, 81; Absent, 6; Excused, 2.

61 having voted in the affirmative and 81 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the motion to **RECONSIDER** whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED FAILED**.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-78)** on Bill "An Act To Address Student Hunger with a 'Breakfast after the Bell' Program"

(S.P. 99) (L.D. 359)

Signed:

Senators:

MILLETT of Cumberland
CARSON of Cumberland
POULIOT of Kennebec

Representatives:

KORNFIELD of Bangor
BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
FARNSWORTH of Portland
INGWERSEN of Arundel
McCREA of Fort Fairfield

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

DRINKWATER of Milford
FECTEAU of Augusta
RUDNICKI of Fairfield
SAMPSON of Alfred

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-78) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-100)** thereto.

READ.

On motion of Representative KORNFIELD of Bangor, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-78)** was **READ** by the Clerk.