

Resolve 12-18/19

Passage: 8-1 (Cook) on 3/18/2019

Effective March 28, 2019

ETHAN K. STRIMLING (MAYOR)
BELINDA S. RAY (1)
SPENCER R. THIBODEAU (2)
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**CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL**

KIMBERLY COOK (5)
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)
PIOUS ALI (A/L)
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES, JR (A/L)

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING BANNING
ALL NON-MEDICAL VACCINATION EXEMPTIONS**

WHEREAS, at 5 percent, Maine had the seventh-highest rate of non-medical vaccination opt-outs in the country in 2017-18, according to the federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, thirty-one Maine public elementary schools report 15 percent or higher rates of unvaccinated kindergarten students, putting those schools and the surrounding community at greater risk of outbreaks of measles, chickenpox and pertussis; and

WHEREAS, Maine experienced an increase in pertussis cases from 410 in 2017 to 446 in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Maine's pertussis rate of 27.7 cases per 100,000 population was the worst in the nation in 2017 and more than five times the national average, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, decades of research and science have proven that immunizations are overwhelmingly safe; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization issued a report on February 28, 2019 that said "vaccine hesitancy" has become a global health threat; and

WHEREAS, community ("herd") immunity, which protects everyone, results when healthy people get vaccinated and by doing so protect the health of individuals with weakened or failing immune systems –who have cancer, HIV/AIDS, type 1 diabetes, or other health conditions – who cannot get a vaccination;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Portland hereby supports the approval by the Maine State Legislature of LD 798, submitted by Representative Tipping of Orono, that would ban all non-medical vaccination exemptions, no longer allowing parents to forgo school-required vaccinations for their children unless that child had a medical exemption; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolve shall be sent to all members of the Portland Legislative Delegation.