

Hello, my name is Candi Landry. I always dreamed of following in my mother's footsteps as a nurse. I eventually achieved my goal after raising a family and working hard through nursing school. I was so excited to begin my career in nursing that I went straight into the Emergency Department, as a new grad, wanting to see and learn as much as I could. I enjoyed taking care of my patients who often came in to the ED filled with fear and anxiety of the unknown. Often times I was able to put them at ease and help them understand what was involved in their care. During this time in the ED I was able to work part-time in Interventional Radiology, a dream job that I was excited to hold and learn new skills to better take care for patients. Eventually, I moved on to a Day Surgery Unit and PACU continuing my care of patients with compassion and understanding for those undergoing anesthesia.

I loved my job as a nurse, during the 18 months that I worked during the pandemic, I worked extra shifts when we were short staffed or for coworkers who had called out. I did not mind doing this to make sure my coworkers had adequate coverage and patients were well taken care of. Each day that I went in to work during the pandemic we were given a brown paper bag with one face mask to wear all day from patient to patient. As a nurse and an advocate of good health, I was not afraid to go into work and take care of Covid patients. After studying Anatomy and Physiology in nursing school, how could I not be amazed at the immune system we have been created with? I have always been health conscious, taking care of my body by eating properly, exercising, adequate sleep and trusting in God.

On October 29, 2021, I lost a profession I had dreamt of since I was a little girl. I now, voluntarily, help an elderly neighbor, when I can, who has no family to assist her. The home health agency that was assisting her with daily in-home care dropped her when they could not find staff to send into her home. This is unacceptable, especially when a large percentage of Maine's population is elderly.

It is sad to hear the stories of people receiving subpar care in our hospitals and nursing facilities. There was a nursing staff shortage before the pandemic and it has now been exacerbated by the mandate. The thought of going back into a hospital or nursing facility holds no appeal for me if the mandate is overturned.

Being let go of a job I loved because I chose not to take the EUA Covid vaccine goes against everything that I was taught in nursing school about allowing a patient to choose their treatment/plan of care. I am thankful for those of you who are fighting this and pray this mandate gets overturned.

Candi Landry  
Smithfield  
LD 51

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