

Good morning, my name is Jordan Hancock. I'm a firefighter, paramedic, and emergency dispatcher. I've worked as a first responder for 15 years. In the State of Maine I've served the communities for the City of Portland, the Town of Cumberland, the Town of Scarborough, and the Town of Hollis.

Before the vaccine mandates most fire/ems departments were short staffed. When the mandates were implemented, myself and many other first responders were forced out of the Maine health care system. This has caused further staffing shortages. With fewer people wanting to join this profession it has forced departments to steal employees from other communities. This in turn leaves those communities even more short staffed.

Before the mandates, we were being forced to cover unstaffed shifts. The mandates have only compounded that problem. With fewer medical providers, I have seen ambulances being staffed with lower license levels and even non medical people with only a driver capability. Many providers are working 48 to 72 hours just to cover unstaffed shifts. Do you want your loved one to be a patient to the medic that is on hour 70 of a 72 hour shift? Call volume is only increasing in the State of Maine. You may be waiting for an ambulance from the next town over because your town's ambulance is already on a call. Can you imagine waiting those extra critical minutes while your loved one is having difficulty breathing and turning blue. Oh and it's hour 70 of that medic's shift. I know this scenario sounds extreme, but I've been the medic in that scenario, multiple times.

Many firefighter/paramedics work for multiple departments at once. So when a person like me was forced out, it created shift openings in multiple communities. The current Maine EMS Board has made a dangerous situation by implementing burdensome mandates. In the end these mandates not only hurt the medical providers, but it hurts the Maine people in their greatest time of need.

I would encourage you today to stand for the Maine people by getting THEIR health care providers back to work. So Mainers can have quality care.