

Kellie Welch
Gorham
LD 51

Kellie Welch
7 Aspen Lane
Gorham, Maine 04038
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Good morning, Representatives Drinkwater and Perkins, and esteemed committee members.

I am here today to urge you to vote "ought to pass" for LD 51, An Act to Restore Religious & Philosophical Exemptions to Immunizations Requirements

My name is Kellie Welch. I live in Gorham; I was a Licensed Radiologic Technologist in State of Maine until I was terminated from my job on October 26, 2021, because of the mandatory vaccination requirements. This is why I am sending you my testimony to help you to decide why it is important for our state to restore the right to submit a religious/medical exemption when it comes to our bodies and our concerns regarding our religious or medical beliefs.

Please take a moment to read why I feel this bill is so important for our families and communities in the State of Maine where medical/vaccinations should be a personal choice and not forced.

I used to work at Maine Medical Center as a Radiologic Technologist. I worked there for 31 ½ years before I was terminated because I refused the Covid vaccination. Of course, as a health care worker, I worked with very sick patients, and I was considered an essential worker during the covid pandemic. I worked with multiple covid patients, and today I have remained covid free. All these years working at MMC I never had the flu; I rarely called out sick other than some surgeries. At one point in my career, I was freely able to refuse the flu shot, which was once a medical freedom that was recognized by the state. I have a wonderful immune system that protected me from illness while working in the hospital. I credit my good health to a strong immune system and taking the time to care for myself. All medical procedures/vaccinations should be personal no matter your status as an individual, i.e.: healthcare worker or student.

The State has a healthcare shortage and because of 2019 Law requiring healthcare workers to be fully immunized has impacted the State healthcare system. I could still be working today had I been able to submit a religious exemption. I could have helped lessen the shortage impact. Again, I refused my religious belief once held as a right! I still feel today that I made the right choice regarding the covid vaccination. I am saddened to hear of all adverse reactions and even death to patients caused the covid vaccination. Hopefully if we can reverse this law, maybe we can avoid this tragedy from ever happening again.

Again, I will urge you to vote "ought to pass" for LD 51 as a safety measure for the State of Maine. This is a good bill please put the State of Maine back to where "we" has a people have a legal right to decide what is the best medical choices for ourselves. No one person should be forced to take a vaccination they feel is not right for them or any medical procedure for that matter! Also, termination from employment is a bad decision and must be reversed from this now existing law.

Sincerely,
Kellie Welch