

To the Representatives Considering LD867,

My name is Seth Blanchard and I live in Brunswick. I am a fully vaccinated adult who has spent the majority of my career in healthcare but chose to forgo COVID vaccination. It is my belief that while we already have a compelling collection of adverse reactions that would have shut down any vaccination rollout at any other time in history, the true impact of this global clinical trial will not be fully understood until scientific rigor is able to be applied.

LD 867 is an important admission that we are racing towards removing health sovereignty and choice as if we have a safe and effective solution to COVID. However, we do not. There is no safety in a vaccine that does not provide immunity. There is no effectiveness in a vaccine that can still transmit to others clandestinely without detectable symptoms.

In regards to the unvaccinated being the cause of healthcare bottlenecks, I think we can't know that for sure until we take care of two items: the first is the staffing crisis brought on by mandates. If you look at the job listings at MaineHealth, for example, you'll see that there are now more than 1,000 nursing positions that are vacant. More than 150 provider positions are no longer filled. Second, we need to be more transparent with data. At least one Maine hospital appears to have changed their public data reporting concerning the percentage of vaccinated vs. unvaccinated admissions to embed the undervaccinated (vaccinated but not fully boosted) in the unvaccinated numbers. This is incredibly misleading as the intent is to promote vaccination and it is achieved by hiding the ineffectiveness of the vaccine within the numbers associated with those who have not been vaccinated.

We see barbaric implementations of liberty abridging laws being enacted all over the world out of a sense of fear and a motive of protection. Already, I cannot take certain education classes I need for work. As I have looked for other positions in healthcare, there are jobs that I cannot even apply for because I am unvaccinated. Ironically, many of those positions are remote.

Please don't abrogate our liberty for a false sense of safety. Allow your constituents to continue to look at the data and make informed decisions for themselves along with their doctors. Don't take the approach that France has taken by splitting their citizens into two camps and making life intolerable for those who comply with their conscience. Please don't fall into the trap of justifying the removal of rights because the cause du jour aligns with your current sympathies. Please vote to support LD 867 and any other bill that protects the liberty of Mainers.

Respectfully,

Seth Blanchard

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Brunswick

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