



PO Box 135
Woolwich, Maine 04579
Tel.: (207) 621-0313
pam@mnpa.us

*27 Years of **Full Practice Authority** as Healthcare Providers for the People of Maine*

January 11, 2022

Senator Ned Claxton, Chair
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Service

Testimony in opposition to LD 867
An Act to Prohibit Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccinations for 5 Years to Allow for Safety Testing and
Investigations into Reproductive

My name is Pamela Cahill, I live in Woolwich, Maine and represent the Maine Nurse Practitioner Association in their opposition to LD 867. Currently there are more than 2000 nurse practitioners licensed and practicing in Maine who are an essential component in providing quality healthcare to all Maine people.

In the middle of January, 2022 we have seen COVID-19 rates increase alarmingly to the highest levels since the beginning of this pandemic, burdening healthcare institutions beyond capacity, putting healthcare workers at risk and once again closing schools and businesses throughout Maine. A large percentage of new cases are associated with unvaccinated people.

Vaccines provide a significant benefit to people throughout our country and requiring certain ones as a condition of employment or to attend schools is not a new concept. It is proven that the COVID-19 vaccine helps to prevent the disease from spreading, or occurring at all, and lessens the severity of the disease in many cases, which in turn protects our children, healthcare workers, the elderly and our population as a whole from serious health issues and ultimately, death.

While we appreciate the right of an individual not to get vaccinated, those same individuals must accept the consequence associated with their decision.

LD 867 is not based on science or facts and instead relies on theories and misinformation that contradict the science. As frontline practitioners we urge you to help us keep Maine people safe and vote ought not to pass on this unnecessary and misrepresented legislation.

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