

Alaina Church
Fairfield

Senator Claxon, Representative Meyer and Esteemed Committee Members,

Thank you for your time to address this important matter of LD867.

My name is Alaina Church. I reside in the town of Fairfield Maine. I hold a state of Maine registered nursing license and I have since 2011.

When I first heard about the vaccination mandate for COVID-19, I immediately felt a pit in my stomach. As a nurse for over 10 years serving our central Maine community, and one who has served on the front lines since the start of the pandemic, I instantly felt sadness. I knew that this could mean the end of my nursing career. I had so many unanswered questions but my biggest one was "how am I going to take care of my family? I need to be the one providing for them, it's my paycheck that pays the bills and puts food on my table so my children can eat. Without my job, we would not be able to survive." I felt panicked, sick to my stomach and concerned about so many things. Since this mandate came about, my mental health and physical health has struggled due to the anxiety and panic I have endured. Every. Single. Day. I would think about how I could possibly care for my family without my job- the only job I have ever known. What about my children-without knowing the long term effects, I am scared of what the vaccine might do to me due to my children if they are mandated to get the vaccine for school. There is not long term studies or safety research that is currently out there to make me feel comfortable vaccinating myself, let alone my innocent young children. I was and still am losing sleep over this. I still think about the mandate constantly- the first though when I opened my eyes in the morning (after barely any sleep) to my last thought at night was regarding this mandate and the vaccine. It has taken a huge toll-financially, mentally and physically on my family and I, beyond any words I can describe.

As a healthcare professional, I have seen the results of this mandate first hand. It has created so many staffing issues, it's seems as though they are beyond repair- the healthcare system is in dire need of healthcare professionals- someone who is a strong, capable, excelled and experienced like myself. I have served my community for the past 10 years- and not once have I ever been asked what vaccines I've had while I'm performing CPR on someone with their family standing next to me yelling for us to "save them," not once have I been asked about the vaccines I've received as I'm holding the broken neck of a trauma patient knowing that with one wrong move my patient could end up paralyzed or dead-with fear in their tear-filled eyes, the words that came out of their mouth were "thank you for helping me. Please make sure I'm going to be okay. I'm so glad you're here."

It deeply saddens me that I will not be able to serve my community, help those in need and continue to save lives, because I won't consent to taking a vaccine that I am not able to be fully informed to consent for. I have COVID 19 antibodies after having COVID 19 this past fall. My natural antibodies don't matter because they are not vaccine induced, however because I have natural antibodies from having chicken pox, I don't need the varicella vaccine. At work, I was treated differently, bullied and ridiculed for not having the vaccine. I was told that the "unvaccinated should be left without treatment and to die." As like any healthcare worker, we are taught to treat every patient with the upmost respect and to treat without prejudice even if we disagree with their medical decisions. Hospitals continue to treat and care for those with underlying illness due to their personal decisions, such as those with liver disease due to excessive alcohol use or those with COPD from smoking. An unvaccinated person should not be bullied, shamed or treated any differently because they made the medical decision not to get vaccinated at this time- and they should definitely not be fired for not receiving an injection-that they feel needs more safety, long term studies and testing prior to injecting it into their body- it cannot be taken back after it's administered into one's body- it's a permanent decision that should not be rushed or forced.

I'm asking for an "ought to pass" on LD 867 - An Act to Prohibit Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccinations for 5 Years to Allow for Safety Testing and Investigations into Reproductive Harm. Please allow more testing on these vaccines, let's continue to research and assure safety before we do damage that we cannot repair. Let's wait to ensure these vaccines are 100% safe AFTER safety testing and investigations. From a front line worker, who has worked in the trenches of this pandemic, I am asking you please allow for more research and safety before mandating these vaccines. Please enact LD 867.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alaina Church, RN

Sent from my iPhone