

Alaina Church
Fairfield

Senator Claxon, Representative Meyer and Esteemed Committee Members,
Thank you for your time to address this important matter of LD867. I am urging you to vote "ought to pass".

My name is Alaina Church. I reside in the town of Fairfield. I have held a state of Maine registered nursing license 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 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- the only job I've known. I had so many unanswered questions but my biggest one was "how am I going to take care of my family." The loss of my paycheck would be detrimental. My mental and physical health has struggled due to the anxiety and panic I have endured.

I am losing sleep over this. This vaccine and mandate is the first thought when I open my eyes in the morning and my last thought at night. It has taken a huge toll-financially, mentally, and physically on my family and on I beyond any words I can describe.

As a Nurse. I have seen the results of this mandate firsthand. It has created so many staffing issues, it seems as though they are beyond repair- the healthcare system is in dire need of healthcare professionals who are strong, capable, competent and experienced like myself.

Not once have I ever been asked what vaccines I've had while performing CPR on someone with their family yelling, "save them," or when I'm holding the broken neck of a trauma patient knowing that with one wrong move my patient could end up paralyzed or dead. It deeply saddens me that I will not be able to serve my community, help those in need and continue to save lives.

Having recovered from COVID I have strong natural immunity, so I do not pose any danger to patients, yet the mandate still applies to me because my antibodies are natural and not vaccine induced.

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 respect, and to treat without prejudice even if we disagree with their medical decisions. such as those with liver disease due to excessive alcohol use, or those with COPD from smoking.

An unvaccinated person (especially one with natural immunity) should not be bullied, shamed, or treated any differently because they decided not to get vaccinated. They should not be fired for not receiving an injection that they feel needs more safety, long term studies and testing. Taking the vaccine is a permanent choice that should not be rushed or forced. I fear what the vaccine might do to me and my children. I need long term studies and safety research.

From a front-line worker, I am asking you please allow for more research and safety.

Please vote ought to pass LD 867

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alaina Church, Registered Nurse