

Good morning Senator Claxton, representative Meyer and esteemed members of the committee.

My name is Tracey Dorian Feith, I am a Registered Nurse of nearly 22 years. I am a mom of 5 who works 2 pediatric homecare nursing jobs to support my family.

I worked hard to acquire my BSN and even harder to provide up-to-date skilled care and compassion as a bedside nurse for my entire career.

I served my country during OIF and OEF as an Army nurse, never once questioning my orders because I believed in the mission.

During the pandemic I went to work every single day without hesitation.

When the vaccine was released, I admit I was hesitant, because of the utter lack of long-term data. I feared what an experimental vaccine might do. But in spite of my good health, I feared inadvertently infecting one of my immune compromised patients.

I became one of the first to get the vaccine, on January 7, 2021, just over one year ago. Within just days of my first and only dose of Moderna, I knew something was wrong. By day 4 I couldn't breathe. I couldn't sleep. My heart could not hold more than two regular beats in succession. I was dizzy. I had headaches, constant chest pain, feelings of impending doom. The pressure in my chest felt like I was being squeezed in a vise. When I finally took time away from work to make it to the ED, the ED physician told me I was having a cytokine storm response to the vaccine. These symptoms continued every minute of every day for 2 weeks.

I had episodes of slurred speech and poor balance. I fell down a lot. I was nauseous. I was swollen everywhere. I continued to suffer shortness of breath, tachypnea (rapid breathing-my resting respiratory rate was 32-36 breaths/minute. Normal is 16-20.), elevated blood pressures, headaches and irregular heartbeats for months. I had concerning results from a 2 week cardiac halter monitor early on.

I had to discuss with my children emergency protocols in the event I collapsed. I had to explain to my children, that based on results from the cardiac monitor, CPR may not resuscitate me. I updated my living will, and my POA. I have literally felt my heart stop, and restart at least 3 times. Can you imagine any of this?

I can not verify for you, or even myself a particular diagnosis. I was one of the first recipients, one of the first to have these symptoms. My cardiologist is at a loss, the Neurologist has no answer. While my PCP is supportive, I am in the process of referral to see specialists at Boston Cardiology. Our State can't help me, so now my hope lies in Boston.

In spite of all of this I continued to work and do my job to the best of my ability. I have always believed in being a nurse. At least I did until 3 months ago, when politicians enacted a mandate to "protect public health". A mandate which has destroyed my faith in Healthcare.

I can assure you that my 5 children will NOT be receiving this vaccine until it can be proven safe, in long term studies, and I can see data. My husband and I are fully prepared to leave the state of Maine to protect our children. I am fully prepared to leave the profession I have devoted my life to if my medical exemption no longer protects my job.

12 months ago, I was essential. Then I was a hero. Now, Today though I may be broken, I will fight for my children, and my community, for their right to choose. I am asking you to pass ID 867 to prohibit COVID 19 vaccine mandates for 5 years to allow for scientific investigations.