

Elizabeth Finn  
Camden

Senator Claxon, Representative Meyer and esteemed committee members,

I am writing today to urge a vote of "ought to pass" on LD867. My name is Elizabeth Finn, I am an RN residing in Camden with my husband and our two children, a 15 year old daughter in 10th grade and a 22 year old son getting ready to graduate college in the spring of this year.

My experience in nursing includes Neonatal intensive care, medical/surgical care and most recently home health care in mid-coast Maine where I was the sole pediatric home health care registered nurse in 3 counties, all of Knox, Waldo and Lincoln counties. My patients included newborns to 18 year olds as well as senior patients when staffing was short, (which was often). Many of my patients were battling cancer and it was a privilege to have the special skills necessary to treat them right in their homes.

My home health nursing relieved Maine families' burden of transporting an acutely sick, vomiting child through a 4 hour roundtrip drive to the Children's Cancer Program in Scarborough. This was especially important in 2020 and 2021 to insure these vulnerable kids were safe from infection. I trained to administer chemo and gladly provided Covid vaccines to those who wanted them. I'm not anti-VAX.

I confess a special affinity for my 'cancer kids' because I have had to battle cancer myself. In 2015, I was diagnosed with Cholangio-carcinoma, a very rare form of biliary cancer which was deemed inoperable. I was told to put my house in order as this disease is not responsive to chemo or radio therapy and has a dismal survival rate of 4%. It is usually not discovered in time to be operable. I am the rare survivor, a 4 percenter.

Clearly, there have been no long term studies on the effects of the mRNA vaccine on my survivor group. Thus the only scientifically prudent choice for me was to postpone vaccination until it could be studied further to assure it was safe for my survivor group. Though my doctors agreed with my reasoning, the "one size fits all" approach from Augusta resulted in my termination by MaineHealth on 29 October.

Why am I strongly urging this committee to vote "ought to pass" on LD867: I personally cared for Mainers throughout the worst of the Covid-19 onslaught. As a reward for my service a cascade of negative consequences has been gifted me through the mandate.

I've lost my health insurance. The administration specifically made sure objectors are not entitled to unemployment benefits. I am forced now to remove my daughter from school here in order to do travel nursing work in another state.

Parents of Knox-Waldo-Lincoln county cancer kids are being forced to take days off from work to shuttle their very sick children to Scarborough and as a result, they will be visiting clinics that increase their risk for Covid exposure in order to receive treatments I performed in minutes right in the safety of their homes.

An "ought to pass" vote on LD867 would positively affect the patients of Maine we all serve. It would also contribute to solving the shortage of qualified personnel here in Maine, something the governor herself has acknowledged.

In closing I wish to thank the committee for their consideration of a bill that will impact so many families across Maine.

Elizabeth Finn, Registered Nurse