

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 Harm

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services Room 220, Cross State Office Building

Good morning distinguished members,

My name is Alexis Guy, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to LD 867. Please consider this testimony in advance of the work session.

Many factors that impact the spread and harm of COVID-19 that are out of the control of legislation, but vaccination is not one of these. Vaccines are safe, effective, and save lives. Misinformation and misperceptions of vaccines' safety poses a serious threat. According to the [Commonwealth Fund](#), without widespread vaccination, there would be approximately 1.1 million additional deaths (3.2x higher) due to COVID-19, and more than 10.3 million additional COVID-19 hospitalizations (4.9x higher) in the U.S. (November 2021).

Further, there are no data to support any interaction between the COVID-19 vaccines and women's reproductive organs or an egg that has been fertilized. There are also no data to support an adverse impact to fertility, or a plausible pathway for that to occur. Contracting COVID-19 does pose a serious health risk to pregnant women and their unborn babies. Contracting COVID-19 can also be harmful to males' reproductive health. A recent (2021) article in [Fertility & Sterility](#) found potential for negative impact of COVID-19 on testicular function, sperm production and male fertility.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention uses v-safe, a self-reporting health checker system for people who have received the vaccine, and Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System, a national system that collects reports of adverse events that happen after vaccination. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research also monitors the safety of authorized COVID-19 vaccines through both passive and active safety surveillance systems and does so with domestic and international partners.

COVID-19 can cause long-term harm to physical and cognitive health, in addition to hospitalization and death. There is no plausible pathway for the COVID-19 vaccines to adversely impact fertility, and no data to support any interaction between the COVID-19 vaccines and women's reproductive organs. Adverse vaccine effects are monitored and tracked through established surveillance processes. There is no reason to pause vaccination for the reasons outlined in this bill, and pausing this effort will harm public health. We need to focus instead on dispelling mis- and disinformation and expanding vaccine access to end the pandemic faster. I respectfully request you vote LD 867 "Ought Not to Pass."