

Senator Claxon, Representatives Meyer and esteemed committee members

**LD 867- An Act to Prohibit Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccinations for 5 Years to Allow for Safety Testing
and Investigations into Reproductive Harm**

January 11, 2022. 9:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Claxon, Representatives Meyer and esteemed committee members. My name is Charity Hews, and I have been a registered dental hygienist for 15 years. I hold my license in the state of Maine and in N.H. I practiced in N.H. for 13 years and have been practicing in Maine for the last two and a half years. I am testifying In Favor of Bill LD 867. I support the bill and believe that it ought to pass.

I moved to Cape Elizabeth, Maine about two and a half years ago in July 2019. My family of five settled in nicely, until Covid-19 became the focus of everyone's world. Being in the healthcare field and needing to achieve a certain level of education and understanding about what we put ourselves at risk for, is not an easy task. My personal thoughts and beliefs are that one's natural immunity is the strongest way to fight sicknesses. I tried conveying that to my husband and three children (23, 17 and 12 years old). My 23-year-old got the vaccine mostly because her boyfriend did. My 17-year-old is a three-season athlete and felt very torn to get it in the beginning of the 2021 soccer season. She was going into her senior year and headed into a 2-game first week, when she was told she was in close contact with a positive COVID-19 teammate. We received a phone call from the nurse, saying she needed to quarantine for fourteen days because she was not vaccinated. Her other teammates were able to continue playing and go to school without even a test. This protocol has already changed significantly in just 6 months. She missed her first week of her senior year in high school, and her first two varsity soccer games. She tested negative for the virus. There are no words to describe the absolute embarrassment and disappointment that my 17-year-old felt. She then chose to ask my husband/her father, to go get the vaccine with her, without telling me. I am very concerned with any future side effects it may have on her reproductive system, or any other unknown potential side effects it may cause.

Shortly after this happened, the emergency mandate for healthcare workers was put into place. I did not get the vaccine and lost my job of over two years, that I loved. The emotional stress, loss of income and trying financial times has put a very heavy burden on my family. Going forward, it will get significantly worse if this vaccine is mandated.

My 12-year-old son and I are the only ones in the family now who have not had the vaccine. We have all since gotten the virus over Thanksgiving weekend and recovered. My vaccinated husband experienced the worst symptoms. We have had a lot of conversations about it, trying to explain what informed consent is and that this should be a choice, is not an easy conversation.

Emotions aside, I believe that with more time, this vaccine could be more accepted and understood. I would like there to be a chance for individuals who question the efficacy and intent of this vaccine, to be able to make that choice after seeing more evidence-based research, seeing what may show up on the VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) site and a longer study of its potential side effects. We should be able to trust what is being forced on us. I sincerely thank you for your time and efforts on this bill. Sincerely, Charity Hews, RDH

Charity Hews
Cape Elizabeth

Thank you very much for your time and work on this bill.
Sincerely, Charity Hews, RDH