

January 10, 2022

To: Senator Claxon, Representative Meyer and esteemed committee members
From: Martha Howard
Re: LD 867 Ought to Pass

My name is Martha Howard and I am a resident of Auburn. I would like to sincerely request that you vote Ought to Pass for LD 867.

Forty-two years ago at the tender age of 18 I was diagnosed with a rare auto-immune disease, Takayasu's Arteritis. My physician had not expected my identical twin sister, also diagnosed with Takayasu's Arteritis, to still be alive. By God's grace, we both survived. Aside from Takayasu's Arteritis, I have also been diagnosed with Crohn's Disease, Lyme Disease, Mycoplasma Pneumoniae and Mold Toxicity. It's been a rough 42 years. I am healthy today only because of my tenacious pursuit of health.

January 16, 1991 I was hired at John F. Murphy Homes, Inc. It will be 31 years on Sunday that I have supported people with disabilities. However, because of the vaccine mandate and the fact that part of my job entails contact with the people we support, my job is in jeopardy. I am seven years away from retirement, a very difficult time to start a new career. And yet I cannot risk taking the vaccine because I cannot risk the potential impact it may have on my hard-won health. Although many studies have been done and are being done, there is not clear evidence of who is at risk for a vaccine injury and who will not be harmed. Without clear evidence to show whether I am at risk, it is unconscionable to take a vaccine that may send me back to places of illness I never wish to revisit.

I ask you to please vote Ought to Pass so that no one need take the vaccine or lose their job until clear data is available showing no harm will result.

Thank you,

Martha Howard