

January 10, 2022

Dear Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and esteemed committee members,

My name is Michele Landry from Smithfield, Maine. I am a Registered Nurse of 14 years. I worked 10 years in the Emergency Department and four years in surgical services.

As of October 29, 2021, I was terminated from my position as a healthcare worker due to non-compliance with Maine's vaccine mandate. I lost both my income and health benefits after embracing the challenge of working through the pandemic as a "hero" for 19 months.

This loss of both my income and benefits has not only caused great financial stress to me and my family but also mental and physical stress. I went to school for four years to become a nurse and during that time I sacrificed much in life to complete my goal. When I started working as a nurse, I forfeited more holidays and gatherings to take care of those in need. This was my calling and I do not regret it. Nursing was my life and to go out and start over in another career that is not my passion, would be difficult at best.

Many of my former coworkers have voiced their frustration over the increased stress and instability at work due to the mandate and its exacerbation of the health care shortage. Some have said they will be getting out of healthcare as soon as possible.

I respectfully request your support of LD867.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Landry RN". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "RN" being more distinct and written in a slightly larger, bolder script than the first name.

Michele Landry
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Smithfield, ME 04978