

Dear Senator Claxon, Representative Meyer and esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing to provide testimony that LD 867 Ought to Pass to delay the vaccine mandate to allow investigation into several adverse reaction concerns and to allow qualified medical personnel to offer aid and relief for the unprecedented staffing catastrophes we are seeing today.

I lost my employment and my career of over ten years due to Governor Mills' Covid-19 vaccine mandate. In those ten years I earned multiple licenses in my field as well as a bachelor's degree. I am licensed in X-ray, Cat Scan, and MRI technology. Not many people in my career are what is known as a tri-modality tech. What this means and what it affords the facilities that I've worked for is that I can be bounced around to help fill in where staffing is needed in several specialties. I've been called in on days off; stayed past my scheduled time; and worked holidays, birthdays, weekends, and overnights. I've sacrificed time with my family that I will never get back and many of those family members have now passed on. My work ethic and core values are so strong that I pushed off purchasing a home and starting a family until I became more financially stable. For me that meant working multiple jobs simultaneously to pay off my student loan debt and credit card debt incurred while advancing my career.

I am now on the other side of my thirties and timing for a family is closing in on me. My husband and I got married in 2020 and decided to try for a family right away. It's been over a year of trying to conceive and I have had irregular cycles and only chemical pregnancies although my husband and I have had normal testing. When the vaccines were rolled out for healthcare workers I decided to wait and see to make sure that it didn't affect reproductive or gestational health. The VAERS reporting data has seen a significant uptick of miscarriages and stillborn births. There is data suggesting effects in fertility. I don't believe I should put my future pregnancy at risk or add any more potential and unstudied problems.

In addition, I have family history of inheritable conditions that could put me at a higher risk for adverse reactions. I also have concerns with my own health history that gives me pause and concern on how my body would react to the new technology. With safety concerns related cardiac issues, pregnancy, and autoimmunity I made a choice to wait for more information and long term studies so that I may have fully informed consent.

From another standpoint, I've witnessed unusual activity while employed as an MRI technologist since the vaccine has been in use. I've seen younger patients coming in with neurological problems that recently started for them in 2021. I've seen people with dormant conditions and cancers that have been in remission also coming back more advanced since vaccine rollout. I've seen patients go from walking to crippled following the vaccine. I have family members that have had adverse reactions after receiving the first shot. I have a family member, who has had well managed leukemia for almost 15 years who, after receiving the vaccine, now is in an advanced condition. Perhaps it is coincidence, but it seems a common enough story to me to warrant investigation. However, upon speaking with these patients, many of their physicians won't even acknowledge a relationship and will shoot down any implied correlation with vaccination.

This has left me with many questions: How can we have informed consent when patient complaints are not being studied or taken seriously? How can we call this "science"? I was told by my own doctor's office the only medical exemptions they would give out is one to follow up an adverse reaction to the Covid-19 vaccine itself. I have even heard that an email went out to all the providers from management at my facility that providers are not allowed to grant medical exemptions. They were threatened that if they fail to comply their medical licenses will be closely monitored. This is not ethical, and seems to violate the Hippocratic oath of "first, do no harm" when harm is a prerequisite to an obtaining an exemption.

When I was denied unemployment benefits, I was told my vaccination status poses more risk to the facility. In my experience that also does not seem to be true. My vaccinated coworker got Covid this summer and had to quarantine. I worked closely within 6 feet of her for over 12 hours that day that she tested positive. I also had to stay out of work. However, I never got sick or tested positive while my coworker got very sick and had to go to the ER twice. The mandate also doesn't seem to accomplish what it has set out to do; stop the spread. Today we see understaffed facilities with fully vaccinated employees exasperated by Covid sickness in staff. I was made aware of a patient testing positive for Covid after several weeks of admission prior to transfer to another facility when the only contact she'd had was with vaccinated healthcare workers. How many vaccinated people are out sick today? And if they are sick, they can spread it.

This feels more like a punishment than a prudent health mandate. I did the responsible thing all my life only to lose everything I have worked for because I don't want to put my reproductive and overall health at risk. This mandate has taken away my job; my career; denied me unemployment benefits; and denied my right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. I may have to move out of Maine and away from my support system to survive. I sacrificed my twenties and half of my thirties to build my life that was taken away from me by this mandate. I've included only a small fraction of my concerns in this testimony for sake of brevity. I pray to God that I won't have to move or face homelessness from this mandate.

I strongly urge you to vote for LD 867 Ought to Pass to allow science to study the safety and ramifications of this new technology so all may be provided with fully informed consent and so hospitals can rehire unvaccinated staff to provide the care that patients deserve.

Sincerely,

Christina Mann

Sanford, ME