

Megan Mayhew
Unity

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and esteemed committee members.

My name is Megan Mayhew of Unity and I am here today to urge you to vote "ought to pass" for LD 867, An Act to Prohibit Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccinations to Allow for Informed Consent.

I earned my BS in medical biology and a doctorate in physical therapy after 7 years of hard work and spending tens of thousands of dollars. I have provided care in the acute rehab and home health settings over the past 12 years and worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic. The mandate has been difficult for my family as I lost my job in October, our family lost a significant portion of our income, and I lost my ability to help and care for our most vulnerable citizens.

Before I left my position, I worked in home health care in rural Maine and have witnessed several patients suffer medical consequences following Covid-19 vaccination. There is one particular case that stuck with me. Early last summer I met a previously healthy woman in her 50s that had just returned home after a lengthy rehabilitation stay. She had suffered a thrombotic stroke within weeks of receiving her 2nd Covid-19 vaccination. This lady was a kindergarten teacher and single mother of an adult son with special needs. The stroke affected her dominant upper and lower extremities significantly and initially left her wheelchair bound. We worked together for 3 months before she transitioned to a different level of care. While she was very motivated and made significant progress during that time, at her final assessment she continued to present with severe functional impairment. During one visit we sat together as she cried, her declining mental health had required she begin taking an antidepressant and she expressed all of her concerns as the school year approached - would she have the endurance to walk the distance from the parking lot to her classroom (at the far end of the school) as she was currently getting tired after getting herself bathed and dressed in the morning or walking a short distance in her driveway. How would she meet the physical demands of her job as a kindergarten teacher, including things such as unpacking her classroom and preparing it for the new year, teaching her students to hold a pencil properly, manipulating small objects, opening their lunches, tying their shoes, zipping their jackets, putting on their mittens (things she struggled to do herself), and more. How would she get to school, as she could not drive and was relying on her elderly parents to do her grocery shopping and take her to countless medical appointments. The financial strain she was facing was also quite evident. The effects of this situation will remain with her throughout the rest of her life. There are many stories like that of this lady.

I ask that you vote "ought to pass", to allow the research community to thoroughly test this vaccine. Thank you for this opportunity.