



Christian Civic League of Maine

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and members of the Maine Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Mike McClellan, Policy Director for the Christian Civic League of Maine. The Christian Civic League of Maine envisions a state and nation where God is honored, religious freedom flourishes, families thrive, and life is cherished. We believe a Biblical approach works in life and to include in our governance.

I am here to testify in support of LD 867, An Act To Prohibit Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccinations for 5 Years To Allow for Safety Testing and Investigations into Reproductive Harm. This bill was submitted by Representative Quint. The Christian Civic League of Maine has no issue with vaccinations and does not mean this testimony to be seen that we do. For the record, our small staff is entirely vaccinated. CCL Maine does, however, stand against government mandates. We see Representative Quint's legislation as a commonsense approach in a period of time in history that is somewhat crazy and often nonsensical.

As an elected official from school committee to state representative levels, I learned a lot. In those 15 or so years my biggest learning was to acknowledge what I did not know. And yet elected officials are put in positions that they must rule on subjects that are complicated, in the case of Covid - science. Granted, some elected officials have a background that is conducive to this task, but most do not. Nationally, we see even high level science and medical people in disagreement. As a citizen now, it is clear that I am still learning at this point, 2 years into the Covid era. What I do know supports the LD 867 concept of getting our act together before we act so strongly as to mandate all.

As a process observer I have seen people (understandable) seeking to do something, anything. Promises made that should not have been. The clear introduction of politics into a subject that was ripe for bi-partisan work. The ongoing knowledge that the pharmaceutical industry has legal protections that make me think before I use their products. I have seen national leaders tell us how to act and then find many of them not following their own advice. I also look back to the recent school vaccination issued mandate of a few years ago and reflect on the staggering move to home schooling that has resulted in Maine. I believe and hope our LD 798 elected leaders did not expect that result. Surely, we got clear feedback on the school vaccination policy mandate that a majority of citizens was against. That mandate had great societal affect, clearly not all good.

Rep. Quint's bill would appear to be a common-sense approach in a time of doubt. The bill's summary says: This bill prohibits mandatory vaccinations for coronavirus disease 2019 for 5 years from the date of a vaccine's first emergency use authorization by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration in order to allow for safety testing and investigations into reproductive harm. As I read this, I assume people who want the shot can take it. I assume people can still wear their masks and businesses/institutions can still post rules of entering a store. I am fine with that approach, an approach of choice. I personally, hate wearing a mask and am not confident of the value of wearing it but I am on a school board that a majority voted to mask up and so I honor that commitment. In

other situations, I have chosen to not enter an environment with rules I disagreed with. Both scenarios, my choice.

As we enter the second year of Covid we see that the rules keep changing. Nationally, we see our leader's set rules and break them, often. It is no surprise then, that many have little confidence in the public policy approach. As we move into another season, that of an election cycle that would appear to offer Maine citizens further opportunity for public feedback on the Covid era approach, I ask you to get ahead of that feedback and endorse this commonsense legislation that serves all the people of Maine.

Thank you for your service and know that many are hopeful of your actions and are praying for you and your families daily.

God bless you,

Mike

Mike McClellan
Policy Director
CCL Maine