

Dear Senator Claxon, Representative Meyer and esteemed committee members,

Thank you for your time and consideration. My name is Michael Rioux, I am a resident of Old Orchard Beach, and have been a Registered Nurse for over 4.5 years, and hold a Bachelor's Degree in Molecular and Cell Biology. I am requesting an *Ought to Pass* vote on LD 867.

My position on this proposed bill has been heavily influenced by my clinical experience at SMHC hospital in Biddeford. I have witnessed numerous vaccine adverse events while working as a float nurse before I was terminated for not receiving the vaccination. For example, a healthy 50-year-old patient with no co-morbidities, avid golfer, was hospitalized and nearly died from a severe pulmonary embolism (blood clot of the lungs) after receiving his second shot. He can no longer play 18 holes and now on several lifelong medications. Another patient, early 60's was hospitalized with COVID-19, pneumonia, heart failure, and partial lower extremity paralysis after receiving the shot. Other reactions I observed were bell's palsy, strokes, bronchitis, myocarditis, and ironically many COVID diagnosis's days after the shot, and many "breakthroughs" weeks and months later. Despite Maine's high vaccination rate, COVID hospitalizations continue to increase. Furthermore, the mandate has forced numerous healthcare workers to leave their job, increasing the existing burnout and exhaustion, drastically diminishing patient safety and quality of care – which is a very alarming concern. Top scientists have claimed the shots are "Safe and effective", and it's a pandemic of the unvaccinated, however, the antithesis has been observed in my clinical and personal life. Additionally, the CDC and drug manufacturers state you can still get and spread COVID, along with adverse risks- this is not settled science – so why not investigate and perform additional safety studies, and double-blind placebos (which have not been done) before we mandate this experimental drug? Additionally, we as medical professionals aren't trained/told to report vaccine injuries, resulting in major underreporting of adverse events. Everyone should have the right to receive fully informed consent concerning any medical procedures.