

Melissa Sands
Bangor

I am writing in support of LD867.

I am self-employed, and a mother of an 18-year-old son who is currently attending Maine Maritime Academy with plans to become a marine systems engineer. The vaccine mandate has had a significant impact on his college education, most recently forcing him to change majors because his medical exemption and natural immunity are not considered enough in certain situations. And while it's become quite clear that the vaccines do not guarantee protection or prevent transmission of Covid, now boosters are being required. It is criminal to require these young, healthy students—many of them athletes—to take these experimental shots in order to continue their education when there is a clear risk of permanent injury or even death.

I have been following the science since the beginning of the pandemic. These mRNA vaccines had never been tested in humans before and were rushed to market. It's typically 5-10 years before a vaccine is properly rolled out. The long-term effects are still unknown. Where are the studies on vaccine-induced myocarditis? Cancer? Reproductive health? More time is needed.

And while the FDA did approve the Comirnaty vaccine, it's not even available for use in the United States and won't be for at least 2 more years. The Pfizer, Moderna and J&J shots are all EUA drugs and those cannot be legally mandated. There are many cases in the courts right now, which is another clear signal that more time is needed to work through what makes the most sense and is in the best interest of all.

No one should be pressured to take an experimental vaccine in order to receive an education, participate in athletics or social events, or to keep their job. With risk there MUST be a choice. We have not being fully informed of the risks associated with these vaccines because there has not been enough time to conduct the appropriate studies.

While I'm sure these numbers have risen even more, I'd like to share the December 31, 2021 VAERS report with you:

505,013,980 coronavirus shots injected in the US and territories
1,016,999 reports of injury to VAERS
21,382 reports of death
23,713 reports of myocarditis/pericarditis
36,758 reports of permanent disability
12,765 reports of bells palsy
8,765 reports of anaphylaxis
3,511 reports of miscarriage
following coronavirus vaccinations.

And yet,

All-cause mortality is higher in 2021 than in 2020.

COVID-19 deaths are higher in 2021 than in 2020.

New coronavirus cases in the US just reached a record high.

These numbers cannot be ignored. The mandate needs to be paused to allow for additional testing. We owe it to the people of Maine, and to our children. They are the future. Once injected, there's no reversing it, it's in our body and we alone are responsible for whatever happens next. The drug companies are not liable. It needs to be a choice.

I ask that you please pass LD 867 - we need additional time for testing and studies to be conducted.