

My name is Anne Sarbanis and I am here to voice my support for LD867. I am living proof of the importance of allowing time for the safety studies of novel medical treatments and technologies. I am a breast cancer survivor and a DES granddaughter.

Diethylstilbestrol (DES) is a synthetic form of estrogen that was prescribed to pregnant women between 1940 and 1971 to prevent miscarriage, and related complications of pregnancy. My Grandmother was prescribed DES for all 5 of her pregnancies. The daughters and granddaughter of these women are called DES Daughters and Granddaughters.

In 1971, 31 years after it was first prescribed, researchers linked prenatal DES exposure to a type of cancer of the cervix and vagina called clear cell adenocarcinoma. My aunt was one of the DES Daughters who died from Adenocarcinoma in their early 20s. Today it is widely accepted that the surviving DES Daughters and granddaughters have higher rates of breast, cervical and ovarian cancers and are twice as likely to experience infertility, five times more likely to have an ectopic pregnancy, eight times more likely to suffer a miscarriage (second trimester), three times more likely to experience a stillbirth, and eight times more likely to suffer a neonatal death.

It took 31 years for scientists to discover the toxicity of DES. Imagine, how many more lives could have been harmed if this same drug had been used or worse mandated on all pregnant women from 1940-1971; many of you would not be with us today if that were the case. DES is a prime example of why new medical technologies need to be studied thoroughly over time, and why it is unethical for our political leaders to mandate the use of new medical technologies before robust safety studies on the long term effects of reproductive harm have been completed.

As a breast cancer survivor, I further understand the urgency of life saving medical advancements. My particular kind of cancer, prior to the discovery and use of a Monoclonal antibody that goes by the brand name of Herceptin, was one of the most deadly forms of breast cancer. However, because of further research, it is now the most curable breast cancers. Herceptin does have some significant side effects, cardiomyopathy, pulmonary toxicity and Embryo Fetal Toxicity are among the most common and life threatening. In layman's terms, Herceptin could cause temporary or long term cardiac failure and would be fatal to my offspring if I were to become pregnant while using this therapy. However, because of the research and long term studies on this treatment, I was able to make an informed decision prior to using this therapy.

Healthcare vaccine mandates are plaguing our health care heroes, and short staffing our overwhelmed hospitals. I, and many other breast cancer survivors are currently being referred out of state for breast cancer related surgeries due to the staffing shortages statewide.

I fear that our hospitals could be further short staffed and overwhelmed with cardiac, stroke, or cancer patients in 2, 3, or 4 years, if we learn that these vaccines have similar toxicities to the many other drugs in use throughout our history, two of which I discussed today.

Never before in the history of mankind have we enrolled  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the population into getting an experimental medical procedure. This truly is unprecedented. You must vote in support of this bill to allow our doctors and scientists time, 5 years at least, to study these therapies in the best interest of humanity before we further overwhelm our healthcare system and cause unintentional harm to our future generations.

Anne Sarbanis  
Phippsburg

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