

Kirk Shively
New Sweden

LD 867 Ought to Pass

Dear Sen Claxon, Representative Meyer, and esteemed committee members:

My name is Kirk J. Shively and I am a Registered Nurse from New Sweden, Maine. I would like to submit my testimony for your consideration in support of passing LD 867. It is my sincere belief both personally and professionally that it is in the best interest of the citizens of the state of Maine for the COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate to be postponed for 5 Years in order to allow for further testing to determine the long term effects of this vaccine on individual health.

It is my belief that the available COVID vaccines have not had sufficient time for long-term testing; I do not believe that sufficient time was given to effectively test this vaccination before it was administered to the general public. It is my belief that the vaccination approval process for the COVID vaccines was rushed through the first three approval stages and is now in Phase 4 of ongoing studies after the vaccine is licensed, approved and being widely distributed, which does not represent responsible medical care. I also believe that an individual cannot give informed consent if they have not been fully informed of the medical treatment they are to receive, and I believe that is what is happening with the COVID vaccines.

As a father of three daughters aged 20, 18 and 14 plus a 12 year son, I am highly concerned about the possibility of future health complications, including reproductive issues, due to unforeseen consequences of a vaccine that is using newly developed biotechnology. I understand that the technology for has been researched for many years but was not brought to market because it was not found to be a reliable or successful form of vaccination; that is until "Operation Warp Speed" when it was hurriedly pushed out for use on the public.

I feel so strongly about my position regarding this vaccine that I have never received a COVID-19 vaccination, and though I work with COVID-19 positive patients frequently (often daily), I have never tested positive for COVID-19. I attended to dozens of patients who were positive for COVID-19 since the beginning of this epidemic in Maine as a nurse in the Critical Care Unit of Northern Light AR Gould Hospital in Presque Isle, Maine. Since the mandate for healthcare workers took effect, I have been working in the COVID unit as a traveling nurse in another state. There I have personally given direct patient care to literally scores of actively COVID-positive patients. That state, in which I am currently working, allows for vaccination exemptions for their healthcare workers and the hospital gladly accepts the nursing help that my own home state of Maine has been so willing to give up. This situation has forced me to live away from my family in order to provide for them. I am having to maintain a household in two different states, which is a burden. Meanwhile, in Maine our hospitals are facing staffing shortages. Our family has a history of autoimmune disorders and vaccine reactions, yet we were unable to obtain a medical exemption for this vaccine in Maine. I pray that you will carefully consider the potential ramifications that not delaying the vaccine mandate could cause to the health and well being of Maine's residents, and urge you to please pass LD 867.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kirk Shively, RN, MS, WCC