

Kimberly Solberg
Madison

Dear Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and Esteemed Committee Members,
My name is Kimberly Solberg and I'm a social worker from Madison. I'm writing today to urge you to vote ought to pass on LD867. When I am faced with making decisions for my health or the health of my family members, I do my best to educate myself from the information available. As you know, over time we have learned much more about Covid-19 which has helped businesses, schools, healthcare facilities and the general public make decisions about how to remain safe. Recently quarantine recommendations have changed which impacts children returning to school and employees returning to work (<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus/covid.shtml>). We have also seen how decisions about the Covid-19 vaccine have changed as more data has been collected. For example, instead of two shots now the recommendations are for a booster shot. I have seen recently in the news that despite high vaccination rates (some hospitals with 100% of staff vaccinated) healthcare workers are still becoming infected with Covid-19 and missing work as a result causing additional staffing crisis (<https://www.wabi.tv/2022/01/05/northern-light-health-updates-quarantine-isolation-guidelines-healthcare-workers/>). The response seems to be that more people need to be vaccinated. This is a confusing message when people see more and more vaccinated individuals getting Covid-19 and the answer from the government is to continue to mandate the vaccines. Did anyone predict that individuals would need multiple doses in order to stay protected and not spread Covid-19? We have learned a lot so far and I can't help but wonder what else we will learn over the next few months or years. Passing LD867 is sensible and communicates to the public that if you choose to wait for the safety and testing of the vaccines to continue before making a choice that it's ok and you will not lose your job in the meantime. I personally know five RNS who live in a 20 mile radius of me that are not working right now because of the Covid-19 vaccination mandate. Prohibiting mandatory Covid-19 vaccinations for 5 years to allow for safety and investigations into reproductive harm would mean that these 5 nurses, and I'm sure many more, would return to work. I thank you for your consideration and your careful consideration.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Solberg