

Taylor Young
Cape Elizabeth

I would like to share my story regarding how the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccine has had a negative impact on my life and livelihood. I was set to complete nursing school in May of this coming year, 2022. After spending the past 3 years pouring many hours of hard work and dedication to become a Registered Nurse in the state of Maine, with the hopes of providing care to fellow Mainers during this great time of need, it is disheartening to say the least to not be able to continue on this path due to the dismissal of my personal and strongly held beliefs. In addition, I was also working the frontlines as a Nursing Assistant a few months prior, assisting those with active COVID-19 infections. As of recently, I am no longer employed with the hospital and am also no longer a nursing student. I have experienced not only a great financial burden because of this, but also extreme emotional distress over the state of my future nursing career, ensuring that my bills are met, and that I have enough money for groceries at the end of the week. I have taken up a job cleaning houses so that my bills can be met, while my 3+ years of nursing knowledge and experience goes unused, especially during this time of extreme staffing shortages and overwhelm to our Maine healthcare systems. It now comes to my attention that vaccinated healthcare workers are able to actively carry and transmit COVID-19, with some hospital systems in our state allowing workers who have tested positive to return to work immediately. I would like to point out that myself, an unvaccinated healthcare worker with no active COVID-19 infection poses less of a threat to patients than that of someone who carries an active COVID-19 infection. I am hoping that you will hear my testimony as well as others to help make an informed and correct decision regarding the implementation of mandatory COVID-19 vaccines in the workplace.

Thank you,
Taylor Young