

**Christian Science Con**

**F O R C O N**

Date: 3/12/07

Bill Number: 7292

**REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT**

**HB 7292- An Act Concerning CPR Training and Automatic External Defibrillators**

March 12, 2007

The Christian Science Committee on Publication for Connecticut respectfully requests that HB 7292 be amended as follows:

In the bill in section 1 **ADD** a new subsection (b) to read:

"10-16b. Prescribed courses of study. (a) ...**(b) No pupil shall be required to take or participate in instruction on disease, its symptoms, development and treatment, whose parent or guardian shall object thereto in writing on the grounds such instruction conflicts with the parent or guardian's religious beliefs, and no pupil so exempt shall be penalized by reason of such exemption...**"

Renumber remaining sections (b), (c) and (d) to read (c), (d) and (e)

**EXPLANATION**

The education of children is of utmost importance. Parents play an active role in education and should be allowed the choice to have their children excused from portions of the curriculum that are in conflict with their religious beliefs. Christian Science spiritual healing has been systematically practiced, quietly and successfully, in many Connecticut families for well over a century, sometimes through four or five generations. Parents who utilize such a spiritual approach to health care teach their children how to employ logical, scientific prayer to nurture and maintain their health and well being. For some parents, this spiritual education might come in conflict with "health and safety" classes and such parents should be able to excuse their children from these classes.

Connecticut law already recognizes the choice for parents to object to part of the curriculum on religious grounds:

"No provision of section 10-206 or 10-214 shall be construed to require any pupil to undergo a physical or medical examination or treatment, or to be compelled to receive medical instruction, if the parent or legal guardian of such pupil, or the pupil, if such pupil is an emancipated minor or is eighteen years of age or older, in writing, notifies the teacher or principal or other person in charge of such pupil that such parent or guardian or pupil objects, on religious grounds, to such physical or medical examination or treatment or medical instruction."

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-208 (2004).

Our recommended amendment would also be consistent with provisions found in the vast majority of states including New York, Illinois, Vermont, California, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Ohio, Michigan, Florida, and many others.

We, therefore, respectfully request that the bill be amended as stated above