

Christian Science

Public Hearing Testimony Speaker:

Paula-Jensen-Moulton

F O R C

REQUE

Date: 3/12/07

Bill Number:

~~7350~~

March 12, 2007

House Bill No. 7350— “An Act Concerning the Prevention of Childhood Obesity”

The Christian Science Committee on Publication for Connecticut respectfully requests that House Bill No. 7350 be amended as follows:

ADD a religious accommodation to read:

“The provisions of this Act shall not require any pupil to undergo body mass index testing whose parent or guardian objects to such testing, on religious grounds.”

EXPLANATION

- The Christian Science Committee on Publication acknowledges and admires the concern the legislators of Connecticut have for the health and well-being of our youngest citizens. This important legislation also affects those citizens of Connecticut, including Christian Scientists, who may choose to rely on a religious non-medical method of healing.
- This amendment would clarify that parents or guardians who, as an alternative to testing, actively and responsibly rely on a preventive and curative religious non-medical method of healing for their children may choose not to have their children undergo body mass index testing.
- Christian Science is one of the religious non-medical forms of treatment that relies on spiritual means through prayer to heal and prevent illness, injuries and other conditions. In Connecticut, individuals have chosen Christian Science treatment and care for healing for more than a century. The experience of those practicing Christian Science is that this healing method has both preventative and curative effects. The application of this religious non-medical method of healing does not involve any type of medical examination or testing.
- In the Christian Science tradition of Christian healing and health care, identity is based on man as the creation of God, who is only good and who lovingly preserves and maintains His/Her entire creation.
- The testing proposed in this bill would contradict this foundational premise of Christian Science practice, and even interfere with prayer-based healing.
- Parents who rely on prayer or spiritual means for healing should be allowed to object to body mass index testing for the benefit of their children. A similar religious accommodation currently exists at Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-208 relative to health assessments of pupils for school enrollment.

100 ROUTE 37, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT 06812 (203) 746-1570 FAX (203) 746-1579

TOLL FREE 1-877-967-6600

e-mail: jensen.moulton@sbcglobal.net