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**My name is Nimrod Dayan and I am board certified in both Pediatrics and Pediatric Infectious Diseases. I specialize in vaccines and I am testifying in support of House Bill 6158- An Act Concerning Vaccine Distribution.**

I recently heard the following from the Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks of the United Kingdom. Freedom without order does not work- witness the original sin of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, the Tower of Babel- For that, God brought the flood and started anew with Noah. Order without Freedom does not work- witness the slavery of the Israelites in Egypt. Freedom with Order, however, has lasted centuries.

This is also reflected in today's world. Freedom without Order does not work- if everyone is allowed to purchase whatever vaccine they want, many would surely slip through the cracks, vaccination rates would tumble, and public health would be in jeopardy. Similarly, Order without Freedom does not work either- the concept of the State will provide all was a concept that started in ancient times, beginning in Rome, repeated again throughout history, most recently in France before the Revolution and in the former Soviet Union. Those entities no longer exist- they were unsustainable. This concept that the State will provide all vaccines is doomed to fail from unintended consequences.

Freedom with Order, We the People, freedom of choice within an ordered framework, has empowered and inspired this country for 237 years. The intent of this current system is noble but the execution has floundered.

We previously had a system where I, as a pediatrician, could shell out my own money to purchase vaccine, whichever one it was, give that vaccine, and get reimbursed my contracted rate with an insurance company- sometimes breaking even on the purchase, sometimes making a modest profit. That profit allowed me to hire another nurse, pay for their healthcare, whose premiums have risen 13% this year by the way, and help subsidize the overall cost of that vaccine- from purchase to storage to administration to record keeping. If I did not have the money to shell out for a vaccine, I could always get it from the State- they were there for the underserved, the pediatrician who did not have the funds to procure vaccine for themselves. But, I was locked into one vaccine in that old system. Perhaps that product was in limited supply so I, in actuality, could not get it. Especially frustrating

when a similar product was available from a different manufacturer but the State did not have a contract with that manufacturer so I couldn't get it. Perhaps it was a product that our practice had a bad experience with. It was one product or none.

The recent change was Order without Freedom- it was snuck in without proper legislative process, debate and public hearing. It had noble intentions in that it allowed provider choice of vaccine product . However, by mandating that I can only procure it from the state is a major failing in the execution. The proverbial gun was put to our heads saying, "If you want to give vaccines, it will come from us and you will sign this document or you can't give vaccines at all in this State." Order without Freedom does not work. That's why there are laws against monopolies.

We pediatricians, as noble as we may be in wanting to care for Connecticut's children, are still small business owners. By taking the choice of where to get the vaccine out of hands, you've taken away our ability to break even or derive a modest profit. We're not cardiologists or gastroenterologists or orthopedists with procedures. We are not what's wrong with healthcare. We are not the money makers. We are at the bottom of the pay scale. Take away that ability to make some profit and you take away our ability to pay for an employee's healthcare, to hire or even retain that nurse, to stay open the hours that we do, to offer classes to parents, to ensure the safety and well-being of our great state's children. For that matter, if we can't make it work, maybe we can't vaccinate at all. Maybe we can't even stay here in CT. Where does public health go then? Our already superior vaccination rate will only go down. Loss of jobs, loss of providers. Unintended consequences for us.

How about an unintended consequence for you? This year's flu season seems to be abating. Our practice has administered over 12,000 doses of influenza vaccine this season alone. That's more than the city of Bridgeport. We're good at what we do. But ordering next season's influenza vaccine has already started. There will be at least five different types of influenza vaccine available next year. Not manufacturers. Five different influenza products- Quadrivalent intranasal, trivalent injectable, quadrivalent injectable, intradermal, and high dose. We vaccinate for a living- we sit and take the time to figure out what we need and who needs what and when and what is interchangeable and how many doses. If we don't vaccinate, who is going to pick up the pieces of those 12,000 doses we've administered? Are you, as public health officials, really prepared to sift through the details?

Rethink this current law. Support House Bill 6158. Freedom with Order works. It's the American Way. Retain the ability to order from different manufacturers from the State. Restore our ability to order it directly from the manufacturers if we so choose. Freedom with Order. Freedom with Ordering Vaccines.

Thank you.