

6949

Dear valued legislator,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed changes set forth in HB 6949.

As a mother and healthcare provider, I am deeply concerned about the direction of healthcare freedom both in our state and our country at large.

As of January, there has been a huge legislative push in 36 states where over 100 bills have been introduced to restrict religious or personal belief exemptions. It seems they are a knee jerk reaction to the media campaign on a measles outbreak that topped out at 131 cases. Last year we saw over 600 cases reported in this country. The media has failed to mention that since the great eradication in 2000, we have seen small outbreaks every year, and will likely continue to as science has shown us that vaccine immunity wanes over time. Most adults who didn't have natural measles are likely "unprotected", which is why adding a 3rd MMR is now being discussed. We wouldn't need boosters if "immunity" lasted. This also speaks to the issue of "herd immunity", which can not occur if the adult population is not immune to these diseases.

I am currently involved with a large group of parents, healthcare providers, scientists, lawyers and researchers who oppose any infringement of our right to opt out of medical interventions.

Vaccines are indeed a medical intervention which carries known (often under publicized) risk of injury and even death. Attached please find a statistics report from the CDC's VAERS database on injuries and deaths compensated by the national vaccine injury compensation program.

There are many issues associated with this bill, and no visible benefit as CT has one of the highest uptake levels in the country.

Parents are asking for the opportunity to choose on religious grounds whether their children should be subjected to a serious medical intervention. We want the right to choice as we have with any other drug.

If you wish to further increase compliance (already at a national high of 95.3%), why not promote vaccination and persuade people? The mandating of any medical procedure is an outright violation of informed consent.

We live in a "free society" with democratic values and pride in our civil liberties. If you force people, they will resist. Then what? Will you enforce your mandate for vaccination? If you adopt the course proposed in this bill, do you understand where you are taking us?

Have you thought about the implications of this legislation? If you have, you will understand that the course you are taking will erode the fabric of our society, and impose draconian social enforcement policies equal to or more severe than those imposed in the totalitarian states that we abhor?

If vaccines are so safe and effective why are you so concerned that people will refuse them? The answer is, that they have not refused them. Vaccine uptake is at all time high rates.

Vaccines are not mandated in most European nations. Vaccines are not even mandated in communist Russia. Infectious disease has not returned. Perhaps your oppressive bill will cause more parents to question.

Please explore and answer these questions. Seek accurate information from neutral, informed third parties, not from public health zealots or profit-driven manufacturers. You will see that virtual elimination of vaccine exemptions is not only foolish but dangerous social policy. As legislators dedicated to freedom and liberty, it is a bill that you should resoundingly reject.

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