

6949

Testimony Against Raised H.B. No. 6949 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDHOOD  
VACCINATIONS

By Isabelle Menozzi

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Senator Terry Gerratana, Representative Matt Ritter and members of Public Health Committee.

My name is Isabelle Menozzi, I am a Roxbury, CT resident, mother of 2, a Certified Health Coach, Natural Health Advocate and I am writing my testimony against HB 6949.

HB 6949 makes the assumption that the state, not the parent, has legal responsibility for making medical risk decisions for minor children and exercising informed consent on their behalf when minor children do not yet have the cognitive maturity to understand the concept of risk and cannot yet articulate religious beliefs. The bill language requires parents to engage in compelled speech in order to receive a religious vaccine exemption for their children.

HB 6949 is unconstitutional. Requiring a state mandated vaccine "education" in order for a religious exemption to be granted violates the First Amendment "free exercise" of religion. The state may not add substantive requirements for a parent to exercise a religious exemption to vaccination.

Parents are legally responsible for the education and health of their children if they are harmed for any reason. The State cannot and should not compel parents to violate their religious or spiritual beliefs or engage in compelled speech in order to exercise informed consent to medical risk taking on behalf of their minor children.

Please help oppose HB 6949.

Thank you

Isabelle Menozzi