

6949

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Marnie Hinze and I am writing you as a concerned parent and urge you to OPPOSE HB6949. This bill would require parents and guardians who are religiously opposed to vaccinations to submit a notarized statement that they have received and understand the risks of immunization and the failure to immunize as well. It would also require a doctor's signature that a parent has received this information. This bill is a direct violation of our first amendment rights. What does being informed about the perceived risk of vaccination or lack thereof have to do with exercising one's religious beliefs? Absolutely nothing. In addition, requiring all of these extra steps to obtain an exemption is **discriminatory** which is a violation of the fourteenth amendment.

Furthermore this bill assumes that those who are exercising their religious beliefs are uninformed and ignorant about the risks and benefits of vaccination and those parents that do not oppose vaccinations on religious grounds are fully informed of the risks and benefits. This is an erroneous assumption and again has nothing to do with religion.

Parent's should not be coerced in order to have the right to exercise their religious beliefs. Please vote against this bill and protect what this country is founded on. Freedom. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marnie Hinze

Norwalk, CT