

6949

Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH  
Testimony Against Raised H.B. No. 6949 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDHOOD  
VACCINATIONS

By Aaron Hoffman  
Trumbull, CT  
Submitted March 20, 2015

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

My name is Aaron Hoffman. I am a concerned father and Connecticut resident and I am writing  
testimony against HB 6949.

I strongly oppose HB 6949 because it violates my First Amendment right to free exercise of my  
religious beliefs. Parents should not be required to sign an incriminating statement in order to  
claim their legal right to a religious exemption.

As a history teacher, I am constantly in a position where I have to answer questions from  
innocent adolescents as to why America has not lived up to its ideals of democracy and freedom.  
From our policy towards Native Americans in the 19th century to McCarthyism of the 1950s to  
the treatment of Philippines citizens in 1902, America has fallen short of its ideals. In 2015 a  
continuation of the civil rights abuses is no longer covered in a veil of Americanization rhetoric.  
State and federal authorities must respect civil rights in any and all situations.

In a democratic nation where freedom is valued as a main tenet of society, it is unconscionable  
that a state would attempt to curb the rights of its citizens to freely practice their religious faith  
without question.

I implore you to please vote against this bill as a means by which to show your personal devotion  
to democratic ideas and civil rights.

Thank you for your time and service,  
Aaron Hoffman