

Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

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

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Senator Terry Gerratana, Representative Matt Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Alyssa Davi. I am a concerned parent and Connecticut resident and I am writing testimony against HB 6949.

I oppose this proposed bill because 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.

The real issue here is the state's desire to force vaccination upon every family and child in CT which is morally wrong and frankly unconstitutional! I do not want my government mandating my healthcare choices. I am the parent and I have the right to choose under my religious constitutional rights. That is not for my government to decide or mandate.

Especially as the vaccine schedule continues to be altered at will and more and more vaccines are added regularly.

As parents of this generation of children, we are living in important times. The epidemic of chronic illness in this country is at an all time staggering high. It's nearly impossible to find a healthy child anymore! They have allergies, asthma, autism, sensory processing disorders, anxiety disorders, mood disorders, behavior disorders, attention disorders, low muscle tone, developmental delays, social pragmatic problems, seizures... And the list goes on and on.

The way to make children healthier is not to enforce vaccination and make religious exemptions harder to obtain. This is a wildly misguided attempt at getting healthier children in CT and this nation.

We have freedom of religion in this country and the freedom of choice as to how we practice our religion. If we start chipping away selectively at that freedom of choice for the perceived "greater good" of society, you may be surprised by the outcome... Which will likely just be more sick kids. And our country has enough of those.

We have lost millions of children to chronic illness. Mostly boys who will never grow up to be independent productive contributing members of our society. There will be an impact on global competitiveness as a result and the financial burden of caring for sick children threatens to cripple the future of this great nation, if something doesn't change!

Please vote against this bill, as just a small step in supporting families that want less interference in their healthcare decisions by the government. Please support us.

Thank you for your service,
Alyssa Davi