

In Opposition to HB 6949
An Act Concerning Childhood Vaccinations

Public Health Committee:

Though the intention of this bill may be to safeguard the health of children, any legislation that either mandates immunization or restricts immunization exemption is highly problematic for several reasons.

Vaccine injuries do occur, the majority of which go unreported. The FDA reports as few as 1% of adverse reactions are ever reported.¹ Congress heard testimony that medical students are instructed not to report adverse events², though it's federal law for doctors to report suspected events. CDC whistleblower Dr. Thompson has disclosed corruption at the CDC Vaccine Safety Division³ regarding safety statistics. The CDC estimates that of the 30,000 adverse reactions reported yearly using the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) 10 – 15% are serious, involving *hospitalization, permanent disability, life-threatening illness or death*. Some vaccine injuries include: Guillain-Barre Syndrome, shingles, seizures, neuropathy, rheumatoid arthritis and Bell's palsy. What will you say to those who acquire one of these diseases due to your legislation?

Vaccine manufacturers are **exempt** from any liability. In 1986 the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Act (NVICA) was passed creating the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. This little-known, non-juried vaccine court is where vaccine-injured persons file petitions that may eventually be heard by a Special Master. It takes *up to a decade* for a case to be heard, and far less than those qualifying for a hearing actually receive compensation. Despite these barriers, the program has awarded over 3 billion dollars since 1989 - significant considering the slim chance of an award for a problem which does not exist according to prevailing opinion. Manufacturers are liable for child safety seats, yet injecting our children with formulations inclusive of other species' DNA/RNA (or any foreign material) from drug companies without liability is fine? Without liability, are we not medical vaccine experiments? *It is dangerous to exempt any manufacturer from liability*. There is no impetus to assure safety. Will the State of Connecticut assume liability for vaccine injury?

Lastly, but of the highest significance, this bill directly assaults our freedom of religion and constitutional rights. It is the parent, not the Government, who has legal responsibility for making medical risk decisions on behalf of their children. This bill violates the First Amendment right to exercise freedom of religion. Forcing review of Department of Public Health 'instructional' materials and notarized statements should not be a precursor to exercise that right. For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose this bill and shun any additional restrictions on vaccine exemptions. Please respect our rights, our freedom of religion, and our human right to parent our children. OPPOSE HB 6949. Thank you.

Melissa Talarico

¹ Less than 1%, according to Barbara Fisher, citing former FDA Commissioner David Kessler, 1993, JAMA, Statement of the National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC), Hearing of the House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, "Compensating Vaccine Injuries: Are Reforms Needed?" September 28, 1999.

² Jane Orient, M.D., Director of the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons, "Mandating Vaccines: Government Practicing Medicine Without a License?" 1999.

³ <http://www.morganverkamp.com/august-27-2014-press-release-statement-of-william-w-thompson-ph-d-regarding-the-2004-article-examining-the-possibility-of-a-relationship-between-mmr-vaccine-and-autism/>