To the members of the Public Health Committee,

I am writing to you today to tell you that I oppose H.B. 7172, which would mandate meningitis vaccines for 12th grade students. This is unnecessary, expensive, dangerous, and goes against a person's right to decide what medical procedures they get.

A vaccine mandate is NOT necessary. Were you aware that Connecticut has a 98% vaccination rate? That is one of the highest in the country, and well over the rate that is said to be necessary for “herd immunity.” In addition, there are five major serogroups of meningococcal disease. HB 7172 requires vaccinations for all 5 groups even though bacterial meningitis is relatively rare, and the most common type of meningitis (viral) usually requires no treatment. (See https://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/viral.html)

Children today receive 69 doses of vaccines for 16 different viral and bacterial illnesses. This more than doubles the government childhood schedule of 34 doses of 11 different vaccines in the year 2000. Thirty-five doses and 5 more unique vaccines have been added to the schedule in the last 15 years. We most certainly do not need another mandated vaccine added to the schedule for Connecticut's already overburdened children.

Meningococcal vaccine is expensive. In fact, it is one of the most expensive vaccines on the U.S. market, costing an average of $115 per shot in private pediatrician’s offices and an average of $78 per shot through the federally subsidized Vaccines for Children program. (See https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/index.html)

As with all vaccines, meningitis vaccines have known side effects including severe allergic reactions. The US Supreme Court recognizes vaccines to be “unavoidably unsafe” and to cause injury and death in some recipients. Hundreds of thousands of people have reported an adverse reaction to vaccination to VAERS, the Vaccine Adverse Event Recording System. (See http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/ensuringsafety/monitoring/vaers/)

The US Government has even paid out more than $3 billion to the victims of vaccine injury. Why the US Government and not the manufacturers or doctors who administered them? Because vaccine makers and the health care providers who administer them bear NO liability for vaccine injuries and deaths. (See https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/42/300aa-22). That's right, the vaccine manufactures reap billions in profits from vaccine mandates, without having to pay for any of the injuries or harm.

Because of these facts, all vaccine mandates are contrary to the concept of informed consent for medical procedures. Doctors take a solemn oath to do no harm, yet continue to administer the same vaccines in the same dosage for every single person. Would any other drug be considered “one size fits all”? Yet people are forced to accept vaccines as though they truly
were safe for 100% of the population, most of the time without even the benefit of a full list of potential side effects.

I am not anti-vaccine. I am simply for two things- safe vaccines, and CHOICE. Not just choice, but true informed consent. This bill is not necessary. It will cost a lot of money. And most importantly, it has the potential to be dangerous and directly goes against an individual’s right to choice.

I hope my words have some effect on your decision, and I thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Shannon B