

Dear Members of the Children's Committee,

I am writing to oppose proposed bill HB-7005--AN ACT PROHIBITING THE
ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF PARENTAL STATEMENTS CONCERNING RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS TO
VACCINATION BY
SCHOOL NURSES AND PERMITTING MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY TO
ACKNOWLEDGE SUCH
STATEMENTS.

HB-7005 invades the very zone of privacy the Supreme Court has referred to - a parent or guardian has the right to make all decisions regarding child rearing and education without needing any acknowledgement by a stranger or the State.

HB-7005 forces one to reveal medical information in order to exercise a religious freedom. There is no required acknowledgement for any other medical treatment so why should we require one for vaccination exemption?

Requiring that a parent or guardian show this religious exemption to a stranger for acknowledgement has a chilling effect on the free exercise of religious liberty and violates the very privacy the U.S. Supreme Court has so carefully established over the last century.

The religious exemption from vaccinations protects many families whose sincere religious beliefs do not allow for vaccinations as they exist today. Any restriction of this freedom is unethical, discriminatory, and of unsound public health policy. It is not the least restrictive means to fulfilling the state interest. The current statute regarding the signers of the religious exemption is the least restrictive means to fulfilling the state interest.

Thank you for your service, and I urge you to please oppose HB-7005.

Respectfully,

Layla Balali