

Dear Members of the Children's Committee,

I'm reaching out with a desperate plea to give full consideration to how many children's legal right to access a free and public education in our state will be blocked if you fail to oppose bill 7005. My own healthy and beloved children will be on that list of children who will essentially be kicked out of their school if this bill passes. Nearly every year we have anxiously observed different politicians chip away at our religious exemption right and this is another cruel attempt. We find it hard to believe that anyone honestly looking at the high vaccine use rate and the exceptionally small percentage of families that utilize the religious exemption can actually believe these legislative bullying attempts aren't fueled by big pharma corporate interests and their "antivaxxer" fear mongering propaganda. Every time there is a shamelessly misplaced use of the term "epidemic" for diseases that vaccines target, the majority of ill children have actually had the corresponding vaccination. Passing this bill will solve NOTHING as far as children and public health go and it will only harm children by cutting them off from a public school education, their friends and community. These under vaccinated or unvaccinated children will still be in libraries and grocery stores and in public even more so, and it won't make any difference with our disease rates.

Religious exemptions exist in the majority of our states for a reason. It is shameful that Connecticut is deviating from the norm and persecuting people for trying to exercise their rights to religious and medical freedom. Requiring a clergy member to obtain access to their children's protected health information and represent the state's interest is a mind blowing marriage of church and state. It is the ultimate hypocrisy that the legislator who is proposing this bill won't disclose her own religious affiliation because of adhering to the separation of church and state, yet is subjecting families to receive the authorization of a religious authority to access a tax funded public education?

There is nothing more sacred than doing what you know is right, according to your own religious beliefs, for your children and what enters their healthy, perfect, God-given body.

Please support families and our core American values and oppose 7005 and all other attacks on our choice to practice our religious beliefs.

Sincerely,
Stanley Block