

Dear Members of the Children's Committee,

I am writing to oppose 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.**

As written this bill serves no viable interest for the state. There aren't any problems with the religious exemption form and process as it currently stands. I am a nurse in this state, it is part of my duties to protect the HIPAA rights of my patients. It is very appropriate for a school nurse to be able to sign the exemption. A nurse or other medical professional is the only person that needs to be aware of a child's vaccination status. It is not the business of clergy or any other non medical professional to know a child's private medical information or history. It has been suggested by some school nurses that they did not want to get involved in the exemptions. Perhaps the best solution is to educate nurses to what their role as a signer actually is. They are only signing in confirmation of parents identity. They are not confirming religious beliefs. They are not signing in agreement or disagreement. They should not ask any questions other than to confirm identity. And if they were to refuse that it would be considered discrimination of creed.

Please stop this bill from going any further.

Respectfully,

Nicole C.