

Dear Members of the Children's Committee,
It has come to my attention that there will be a hearing on Thursday to remove the religious exemption for children whose parents do not want vaccines for their children. I am writing as a member of the clergy. I am asking you to oppose HB-7005 for the following reasons:

1. Parents should not have to prove their religious beliefs by having a member of the clergy acknowledge their auof exemption. Religion is a private family matter.
2. Religious belief is an internal conviction, not a place of worship. It is personal and private.
3. Liz Linehan, the one who introduced this bill said this on her bio for "Vote Smart": Religion: prefer not to answer. I believe in separation of church and state.
4. Clergy signatures are unconstitutional and discriminate against religious practices that do not have a clergy.
5. Our legal rights are guaranteed by the free exercise clause of First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Recent court decisions have upheld individuals seeking exemptions from immunizations based on personal and religious reasons. On a recent case with the U.S. Supreme Court *Frazer vs. Illinois, Department of Security*, 489 U.S. 829 found that a state may NOT deny an exemption simply because a person is not a member of a formal religious organization. It is government tyranny to do otherwise. The acknowledgment forces one to reveal medical information in order to exercise religious freedom. This has a chilling effect on the free exercise of religious freedom.
5. The definition of religious belief is the belief in the reality of spiritual, mythological, and supernatural aspects

of religion. It is distinct from religious practices or places of religion or behaviors of religion where some believers do not practice religion. The truest definition of religious belief is the power of belief to make a difference in our lives and it is rooted deeply within.

Thank you for your acknowledgment of this email letter.

Sincerely,

Reverend Donna Cassity

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Pastor Donna

Interim Minister

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