

Members of the Children's Committee-

I am writing to ask you to oppose HB-7005. The current religious exemption lists many people that can sign the document. The purpose of their signature is to verify the parent or guardian who is requesting the exemption is actually the parent or guardian. They are not signing in agreement with the exemption or testifying they know their religious beliefs. Adding in clergy would imply that the signatures are there to prove their religion which should be kept separate and private from the information on hand of the State and School.

There have been other testimonies calling for the complete removal of religious exemptions. Such a removal would violate religious freedom – something we all should hold dear in this country. If it was removed families who do not get vaccinations because of religious beliefs would be denied access to public education. They would be discriminated against because of their beliefs. Some would say that homeschool would be the answer but that is not the answer for all families – single parents, parents who both work, the list goes on. No one should be denied education based on their beliefs.

Thank you
Bryn Chandler
South Windsor, CT