

Members of the Children's Committee:

Please oppose HB-7005. I am a lifelong resident of Connecticut, and I am now raising my children here. Any step that begins the elimination of the religious exemption is a violation of the Constitution, which protects religious freedom.

In addition, recent court decisions have upheld the rights of individuals seeking exemptions from immunizations based on personal and religious reasons. U.S. Supreme Court case *Frazee v. Illinois Dept. 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.

Many families utilize the school nurse option to limit exposure of their sensitive and private health information. Nurses have the ability to decline, and even if they do sign, it's not acknowledging agreement to the choice, it is verifying that the choice was made. There are several other options as well. To complicate matters, not all religions have clergy.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,
Noel Cherubino
East Haddam, CT