

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.**

The current religious exemption form is functional as it is and there is no reason to alter it. A nurse is a perfect person to sign it as it allows families to have their private health information protected. There would be no reason to ask for a clergy signature. Asking for a clergy signature forces family's to reveal their private medical information in order to exercise our religious freedom. There should be no reason for family's to have to prove their religious beliefs by requesting clergy signature. Religion is a private family matter. Religious beliefs differ from person to person and it should not be dependent on a specific place of worship or clergy members. Also, the word "clergy" is specific to certain religions. That would be unconstitutional and can be considered discrimination against religions with no clergy. For these reasons i ask you to please vote NO on HB 7005. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

William Comstock