

February 4, 2019

Dear Children's Committee members, I am writing to OPPOSE HB7005
AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PARENTAL
STATEMENTS CONCERNING RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS TO VACCINATION BY
SCHOOL NURSES AND PERMITTING MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY TO
ACKNOWLEDGE SUCH STATEMENTS.

There are many reasons I oppose this bill and ask that you do so as well. The most concerning part of this proposed bill is the replacement of a school nurses acknowledgement with a member of the "clergy". There are over 4000 religions practiced all over the world. To narrow acknowledgments down a Christian based "clergy member" is not only discriminatory but blatantly biased toward a certain religion. This bill proposal is walking all over citizen's right to practice their religious freedom. Please think of everyone rights when making a decision on whether to support this bill. The legislative creep on religious exemptions in CT is worrisome. We have a right to live our lives based on our faith. We have a right to equal opportunities despite our faith. I would hope we would have legislatures empathetic enough to stand up for our constitutional rights even if they don't happen to share the same religious beliefs. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, a concerned resident of East Haven CT

-Erika Crawford