

Good morning esteemed members of the Committee on Children,

I request that you OPPOSE HB 7005: 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.

Several of our Connecticut lawmakers have made it quite clear that they intend to have the religious exemption from vaccination removed from Connecticut law, as is supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics Connecticut chapter. So we are now under a threat to have both our religious rights and the right of an education (in which we pay for with our very high taxes) stripped from our children simply because it goes against our religious beliefs to comply.

A religious belief does not need to be “acknowledged” by a member of the clergy, nor does anyone need to be a member of such a religious organization in order to be religious since a religious belief is a deeply held personal conviction. The state has no business infringing on the religious beliefs of its residents. The first amendment protects religious freedoms.

Additionally, this bill violates the HIPPA privacy acts by exposing information that is and should be private, medical information.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dawn D.