



## State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE ANNE DAUPHINAIS**  
FORTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**RANKING MEMBER**  
HOUSING COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200  
300 CAPITOL AVENUE  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

**MEMBER**  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700  
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423  
Anne.Dauphinais@housegop.ct.gov

Co-Chairs Senator Abrams, Representative Linehan, Ranking Members Senators Kelly and Representative Green, and distinguished members of the Committee on Children's.

I am here to testify in opposition to 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.

My professional experience includes more than 35 years in nursing, where I served in various capacities including acute hospital care, patient care clinics, pharmaceutical advisor/representative, and private home care, skilled nursing care facility, camp and school nurse.

In the nursing role, we are required to follow HIPAA laws that protect the private medical information of any individual exposed to them. Nursing, in general, requires receiving, reviewing and filing dozens of documents which includes: medical, surgical, and liability releases; physicals, food, and allergy notifications; medication authorizations; insurance documents; diagnostic/lab tests; vaccination records and medication documents. The nurses' responsibility, under law, is to protect the confidential information of the patient.

Based on my experience in the aforementioned roles, I strongly believe that Public Act 15-174's requirement for acknowledgment of parental statements concerning religious objections to vaccinations is discriminatory in nature, especially when considering that this requirement does not apply to the many other signatures required in school settings (such as liability releases and early dismissal). HB-7005 would add to this requirement and prohibit the nurse from acknowledging these religious objections.

I am strongly opposed to this language in HB-7005 that would infringe on the protection of students' privacy under HIPAA laws, removing the only signature under which confidentiality is guaranteed.

In conclusion, I would ask this committee to rescind Public Act 15-174 and oppose HB-7005.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anne Dauphinais  
State Representative – 44<sup>th</sup> District