

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to request that you oppose this and all proposed bills attempting to eliminate the right of parents to a religious exemption from vaccinations. I recognize that this is a controversial matter and that the general public is divided on this. I fear that the increase in vaccine debates in the media and those strongly in favor of vaccinating will use this as a platform to initiate and continue an attack and subsequently erode my religious freedoms. This is an issue of parental rights and religious freedom to practice without fear and without discrimination.

I am not anti-vax, but I absolutely believe that it should be the choice of the parent whether or not to vaccinate, and whether to do the full schedule or partial schedule that the CDC recommends. I believe that parents should have the right to choose based on Religious beliefs, or even philosophical beliefs. Requiring clergy to sign for a parent discriminates against families that practice religion without a clergy, or that chose to practice their beliefs at home instead of a church building or religious institution.

As a country, we have made tremendous strides in recent year for the rights of various groups. Whether it be minorities, gender equality, or womens rights, we are a progressive state and moving forward as a country. Infringing on any personal freedoms, especially ones that are constitutionally protected, is wrong. The HB 7005 bill is an example of removing rights of parents that should remain protected.

There is a hearing on Thursday 2/7 at 1:00 p.m. in room 1B of the LOB on HB 7005. We are asking you to OPPOSE this bill which removes the school nurse as one of the people who can acknowledge the religious exemption and adds clergy to that list. This is but one step in the direction of infringement on religious freedom. In addition, it treads on a person's ability to maintain privacy of medical history and belief systems.

Medical professionals must honor religious freedom to make health care decisions even when doing so results in death or decline of the patient. (some religious beliefs prohibit use of any blood or blood products in medical care, even when it could be lifesaving). Government should not have the right to overstep the right of a parent to act in accordance with his or her religious beliefs for history her children.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Alicia Daw