

Dear Members of the Children's Committee:

I am writing to implore you to **oppose** HB-7005. My reasons are many, but I will be brief and to the point.

Religion is a personal and private family matter which is protected by our Constitution and violates the separation of church and state. Our legal rights are guaranteed by the free exercise clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Recent court decisions have upheld the rights of individuals seeking exemptions from immunizations based upon personal and religious reasons. On the U.S. Supreme Court level in *Frazee V. Illinois Dept. of Security*, 489 U.S. 829, it was found that a state may NOT deny an exemption simply because a person is not a member of a formal religious organization. I believe the passage of this bill would have chilling effect on the free exercise of religious liberty in our country.

Requiring a clergy signature is unconstitutional and discriminatory against religions that do not have a "House of Worship" overseen by a particular clergy person.

Please do not allow the government which is designed to serve its people and protect our liberties, to tread on my religious freedom.

Sincerely,

Linda DeFrancesco