

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to HB7005 and I hope that I can count on you to oppose it as well. There is an estimated 4200 religions, not all have clergy. Therefore, those without clergy are being discriminated against, as they would have no one to sign. Religion is a private family matter, that the state has no right to interfere with, influence or discriminate against. 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. Liz Linehan (introducer of this bill) said in her bio on Vote Smart the following: Religion: Prefer not to answer, I believe in separation of Church and State and I believe the same. Requiring proof of our religion is in direct opposition to the belief that Ms. Linehan herself posted.

The federal government has HIPPA, to protect health related information. They acknowledge the sensitive and private nature of this information. This requirement, would force someone to reveal this personal medical information in order to exercise their religious freedom. Not only would they be revealing it, it would be to a non-healthcare provider requiring this acknowledgement has a chilling effect on the free exercise of religious liberty.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Eileen M. Denny, MS, DC, Dipl Ac, DICCP