

Dear Children's Committee Members,

I am writing to submit testimony in opposition to proposed 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.

Removing school nurses as a method of acknowledging a parent's religious objection to vaccination poses a significant hardship to a parent's ability to exercise their religious rights under Connecticut law. Our great nation was founded on liberty, to be free from overbearing government, and this proposal would restrict a parent's means of expressing their religious freedom while unduly burdening them with proving their objection to the state. I further propose that the state remove the acknowledgment requirement altogether and allow parents to submit their religious objection to vaccination absent of an acknowledging signatory.

In great appreciation for your consideration,

Becky G Duff