

Dear Respected Members of the Committee and my fellow citizens of the state of CT and the United States of America,

I am writing this to state my opposition to bill 7005: AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PARENTAL STATEMENTS CONCERNING RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS TO VACCINATIONS BY SUCH SCHOOL NURSES AND PERMITTING MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY TO ACKNOWLEDGE SUCH STATEMENTS.

I am the mother to 2 children, and have one of them home with me to school, as the other is a toddler. My significant other and I religiously oppose vaccinations. The apparent and suggested removal of a school nurse's signature on the acknowledgment of a Religious Exemption would directly affect the lives of our children and thousands of others.

The school nurse is simply verifying the identity of the parent when acknowledging the exemption, as it states in your bill. Out of all approved people to acknowledge and verify identity, the school nurses are the only ones readily available and accessible to myself and others on a daily basis. Members of the clergy are not. Removing them makes the exemption more difficult to be fulfilled, and also brings up the conflict of separation between church and state. Surely no law should be involved in attempting to control religious beliefs, and asking the question is discriminatory and violates our civil rights.

Although as of right now we have decided to homeschool our children, this decision could affect their involvement in sports, recreational groups such as Scouts, summer and educational camps. If the time comes where we decide to enter them into the school system, this change could possibly prevent my children and thousands of others from receiving a public education, therefore affecting the opportunities they would have to solidify their future. Please reconsider this unnecessary change. Thank you for your time.

Gina Janket  
Nicholas Souza