

Thursday,

Dear Committee Members,

It has come to my attention that changes to the religious exemption for vaccinations here in Connecticut are being proposed. I am writing to you today to request that this bill be killed before coming out of committee. I am referring specifically referring to 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.

I have serious concerns with this legislation on many levels. However, in an effort to save time and be as concise as possible, I would like to emphasize the following:

- HB 7005 is unconstitutional. The most important amendment to the Constitution of the United States is that which protects our freedom of religion.
- A religious belief is defined as a deeply held conviction and one need not be a member of a formal church, synagogue, or other in order to hold deep convictions/religious beliefs. It is therefore inappropriate and places unnecessary duress on an individual to seek signature acknowledgement by any member of the clergy.
- As a woman, I have every right to protect my body and to choose to opt in or out of any procedure based upon philosophical, religious, medical, or any other system of beliefs I hold. As a parent, I have the same responsibility and justifications for the rights of my child. The pharmaceutical industry has been removed from liability for any adverse reactions caused by a vaccine. This is true even though every vaccine comes with an insert which clearly list possibly adverse reactions, some which may maim or cause death. I am therefore the only protection for my child and should continue to have the "right to choose" based on religious exemption.
- Two to three years ago, Connecticut passed legislation requiring an "authority" witness and acknowledge my signature when taking religious exemption to vaccinations. It is ridiculous that I should have to have my signature acknowledged by an "authority" when I am granted the freedom of religion in this country. It has come to my attention that this bill (HB 7005) is nothing more than an action termed legislative creep.

I am asking you as an informed citizen of the state of Connecticut and the United States of America to protect my religious rights. Please kill this bill and help maintain the religious rights of Connecticut citizens. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Jenkins