

February 6, 2019

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to OPPOSE HB 7005: AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PARENTAL STATEMENTS CONCERNING RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS TO VACCINATION BY SCHOOL NURSES AND PERMITTING MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY TO ACKNOWLEDGE SUCH STATEMENTS.

We moved to Connecticut almost 13 years ago to raise a family and start a business. We chose this state out of anywhere in the entire country to live. So much has changed over the years since we moved here and this bill is yet one more thing that makes me second guess our decision.

I wholeheartedly believe in separation of church and state. The government simply does not have the right to make requirements that compromise my religious beliefs or values. These types of bills feel like nothing more than harassment!

There is no compelling interest for this proposed change to current law, and there is deep concern that there may be intent not expressed in the current language.

Not every individual is part of a formal organized religion, and religious leaders within the same religion can also vary widely in their religious opinion on vaccines. Adding clergy to simply acknowledge a signature on a religious exemption can be confused with agreeing with the exemption, or worse a requirement of clergy signature which is unconstitutional.

Please DO NOT PASS THIS BILL and respectfully adhere to our First Amendment rights that we should be guaranteed as citizens of the United States of America and the Constitution, and reinforced on a state level by the Fourteenth Amendment without prejudice.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jessica  
Hartford County