

Members of the Children's Committee,

I ask you to oppose HB-7005 - **AN ACT CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS TO QUALIFY FOR THE TEMPORARY WAIVER FOR REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS.**

I don't understand the need to remove school nurses from being able to acknowledge a religious exemption (RE). It makes perfect sense for them to do it because they are at the school and receive all of the health records for all of the students. Requiring parents to go elsewhere to have the acknowledgement signed causes an undue burden on a families time and resources. The RE does not have to be notarized therefore the school nurse is just acknowledging that the person signing the paper is who they say that they are. They do not have to make any determinations as to the validity of someone's RE.

There are only 1255 families using the RE in CT. What is the point of this legislation other than another attempt to begin the process of removing the religious exemption altogether.

CT is facing enough challenges as it is. Removing school nurses from the RE seems to be a misallocation of resources.

Thank you for your time,

Victoria Lawlor