

To: Representative Liz Linehan, Co-Chair
Senator Mary Daugherty Abrams, Co-Chair
Representative Robin E. Comey, Vice Chair
Senator Marilyn V. Moore, Vice Chair
Representative Robin Green, Ranking Member
Senator Kevin C. Kelly, Ranking Member

From: Pam Lucashu, Durham, CT

Re: 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

Representative Linehan and Senator Daugherty Abrams, Representative Comey and Senator Moore and, Representative Green and Senator Kelly, and Members of the Children's Committee, **I ask you to vote NO on HB 7005 regarding who may acknowledge the religious exemption form for vaccinations.**

There is no reason to add clergy to the list of people who can acknowledge the signature of a parent. The school nurse is a more natural person to acknowledge a form dealing with private health information.

How many school forms do parents sign that affect their children during the course of a day? Early removal, administration of medicine, field trip consent forms, sports participation forms. These do not require 3rd party acknowledgement of a parent's signature.

Connecticut has a high rate of vaccine compliance. In 2017-18, the compliance rate averaged 98.7%. ¹ Only 1255 students claimed the religious exemption.

Requiring acknowledgement of a medical form unnecessarily invades the privacy of the student and interferes with the exercise of religious liberty. Removing the one entity bound by HIPAA laws from the list of people who can acknowledge the form is legislative creep.

I urge you to vote No on HB 7005.

¹ https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/infectious_diseases/immunization/workplace/2017-2018-School-Survey-Data-Summary.pdf?la=en&fbclid=IwAR0prdUyR2EFJdrs8fWf-CYsISEphK2hYmXJA3bc5MfU3ueDvxBR-fWWt9A