

Dear Children's Committee Members,

I have been a resident of Connecticut for over 30 years, raised children, worked, and paid taxes. I am deeply concerned about the proposed bill, HB 7005. Removal of the school nurse as a person who can acknowledge the identity of the person presenting a religious exemption is forcing parents to divulge sensitive medical information about their child to persons who otherwise would not be privy to such information. I know that school nurses have refused to sign the religious exemptions, but in many cases they do. This bill would take away that convenience and security of private information. Further, the addition of clergy as a person who can acknowledge a religious exemption will confuse many people into thinking that they need to belong to one of the major religions in order to file a religious exemption, and must seek permission from the leaders of those religions to exercise their right to make a faith-based decision with regards to vaccination. The Supreme Court has ruled that no established religious doctrine is needed to exercise one's religious beliefs. The Connecticut Constitution (Sec. 20) states that no person shall be denied the equal protection of the law nor be subjected to segregation or discrimination in the exercise or enjoyment of his civil or political rights because of religion, race, color, ancestry or national origin. Our taxpayer funded public school is a civil right that should be free from the condition of vaccination if such vaccination is against one's religious beliefs. I ask you to uphold our state constitution and oppose HB 7005.

Sincerely,  
Amy Lussier