

February 7, 2019

Dear Children's Health Committee Members,

As a voting member of the democratic party, I am writing to you today on 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.

To say that I have concerns is an understatement;

I do not understand how this is not unnecessary and unwarranted overreach on the part of the state. I believe fully in the separation of church and state. I am entitled to keep my medical choices to myself and my chosen medical professionals, and I see no reason to include any religious person in my medical choices for any reason. I would no more ask a medical doctor to marry me than I would ask a cleric to sign my medical forms.

“Legislative creep” is a term I’m getting all too familiar with when it comes to vaccines, and it makes no sense. To discriminate comes down to the same bullying behavior that we try so hard to get rid of in our children’s schools. Can we not do better as adults? Or will we allow proposals such as this one to fester and cause more hardship for people than cure?

Consequently, you and I have the legal freedom to drive a car, despite the 30,000 auto deaths pr year (almost 300 in CT on average) and no one in any religion signs my driver’s license. A marriage license has no legal requirement to be signed by someone from a house of worship before it’s respected by the state. Religion does not need to get involved in the legal aspects of any personal or medical decisions we make on a day-to-day basis, even as it may strongly guide those same choices.

There is just no reason for the religious exemption to change, and I respectfully ask you to refuse to support such inappropriate and discriminatory infringements on the rights of others.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. Respectfully,

AJ M.