

Senator Mary Abrams, Representative Liz Linehan and Members of the Committee on Children

This testimony is submitted in OPPOSITION of: H.B. No. 7005 (RAISED) 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of HB 7005 which would remove the school nurse from witnessing a religious exemption form for parents.

What this actually does is take away a huge freedom in our country- religious freedom. I myself am an Atheist, but that doesn't stop me from protesting this bill. Our ancestry here in New England can often be traced all the way back to those leaving England/Europe to escape religious prosecution. I believe that attacking the religious exemption in this state would surely make those pilgrims roll in their graves. We have a duty to maintain the separation of church and state in this country, and to do so we must allow our families to continue to follow their religious tenets while participating in government/state activities, such as public schools. Please protect our constitutional rights in this and all voting matters. Americans should want to see ALL American children represented in their schools.

Respectfully,

Audrey Marandino
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