

I live in Milford CT and am the Director of Faith Formation at Monroe Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Monroe, Connecticut. The United Church of Christ is the oldest and largest Protestant denomination in our state. I write in support of the removal of school nurses from the acknowledgment of religious exemption from vaccination. And I write to oppose the inclusion of clergy.

Most mainstream denominations do not have specific teaching that would encourage refusal of vaccination. Thus most clergy would be placed in the difficult if not impossible position of having to decide the sincerity of a parishioner's claim on an ad hominem basis, not on a doctrinal ground. This would be highly destructive of pastoral relationships. Further, nothing matters more in clergy leadership than integrity. To lie on a form is no small matter; even to sign a form when one is not sure compromises the clergy's ability to lead in honest ways.

Please remove the language including clergy as well as the school nurses.

Debra Mastroni-Kenyon