

February 5, 2019

Dear Children's Committee members,

My name is Stephanie O'Brien and I am writing this testimony as a concerned member of society and mother of two children. I am writing this letter to you to ask that you **OPPOSE** HB7005. *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.*

I feel that this bill is a direct violation of the First Amendment. The First Amendment guarantees freedom concerning religion. It also prohibits congress from promoting one religion over the other and forbids restricting individuals religious practices. I strongly believe that my religious beliefs and practices are just that, MY religious beliefs. I should not feel judged, shamed, segregated or discriminated against and I believe adding clergy to acknowledge parental statements will lead to this. It is unlawful to discriminate against my family because I don't share the same religious beliefs as other members of society. In the U.S. Supreme Court level in *Frazee V. Illinois Dept. of Security*, 489 U.S. 829, it was found that a state may NOT deny an exemption simply because a person is not a member of a formal religious organization. By doing this you are discriminating against those who are not part of a formal religious organization while also committing government tyranny.

While there are other bodies that can acknowledge parental statements concerning religious objections to vaccinations, I feel this bill is a step towards removing all others, starting with school nurses. Practicing religion can take place in many places and it is not limited to a physical place of worship or a member of clergy. Again, **IT IS PERSONAL AND PRIVATE.**

I thank you for your time and desperately hope that you will **OPPOSE** HB7005. I will leave you with one last statement.

I strongly believe that requiring this acknowledgement is destined to have a chilling effect on the free exercise of religious liberty. Please help us uphold the unalienable natural right to life and liberty that belongs to every person.

Thank you for your time,

Stephanie O'Brien

Watertown,CT