

Hello - Please address my below testimony to Members of the Children's Committee and include it in the public record. Please confirm receipt of this email. Thank you.

Dear Members of the Children's Committee,

I urge you to OPPOSE HB No. 7005 requiring a clergy member to sign-off on a religious exemption for vaccination.

Recent US federal court rulings have determined that it is discriminatory to require a clergy note to support a religious accommodation request, because an individual only needs to have a sincerely held religious belief; it is irrelevant whether an individual is part of an organized religion, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act's religious discrimination prohibitions.

For details of an example of this federal court ruling please refer to US Federal lawsuit [U.S. v. Ozaukee County, Wisconsin](#), No. 2:18-cv-00343 (E.D. Wisc., March 6, 2018). This is the case last year of a nurse in a hospital which illegally required a clergy member to sign-off on a religious exemption for a mandatory flu shot.

If you recall, the Puritans who founded the Connecticut Colony in 1636 left England and risked their lives crossing the Atlantic in order to escape religious persecution. Please be on the right side of history and oppose this bill.

Sincerely,
Dan P
Fairfield County