

Dear Members of the Children's Committee,

I am writing to implore you to OPPOSE HB-7005.

Religion is both a personal and private family matter that is protected by our Constitution. Our legal rights are guaranteed by the free exercise clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. On the U.S. Supreme Court level it was found in *Frazee v. Illinois Dept. of Security*, 489 U.S. 829 that a state may NOT deny any religious exemption on the basis that a person is not a member of a formal religious organization. Requiring a clergy signature is unconstitutional and discriminates against religions that do not have a specific house of worship led by a specific clergy member.

It is my right as an individual and parent to choose what medical procedures align with my beliefs and are acceptable or not for my family. It is my right as a citizen of the United States and the state of Connecticut to live my life according to my religious principles. This country was built on religious freedom and this bill is designed to remove not only our protected religious rights but our parental and civil rights as well.

I urge you to OPPOSE HB-7005.

Sincerely,

Jill P.

Hartford County