

Matthew D. Paterna DC
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Dear Esteemed Members of the House,

I am writing to 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.

We are taught early on that there are 2 topics never discussed at the dinner table. Religion and politics. Why? Because they all evoke deeply passionate and personal emotions. Which is a reason why the FIRST amendment of our constitution addresses religion and politics.

In respect to this Bill, if the government is mandating that a member of the clergy verify a parent's statement of religious belief, then wouldn't that clergy be acting as a surrogate for the government? And if so, wouldn't this be a CLEAR VIOLATION of our first amendment?

Does the government have the right to question my religious views, values or beliefs? I, like most of you, believe in the separation of church and state.

For this reason, I believe this bill be removed on the basis of religious discrimination and clear violation of our first amendment rights.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Matthew Paterna
Milford, CT