

February 7, 2019

Members of The Children's Committee

RE: OPPOSE of H.B. 7005

I am writing today regarding H.B 7005 - AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PARENTAL STATEMENTS CONCERNING RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS TO VACCINATION BY SCHOOL NURSES AND PERMITTING MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY TO ACKNOWLEDGE SUCH STATEMENTS.

This proposed legislation, I believe, is just one example of government overreach and a step in the direction to dissolve parental rights and religious freedoms.

This nation was founded upon the notion that "religious belief" is personal and unique to each individual. Wouldn't you agree that requiring a member of the clergy to sign off on a Vaccine Religious Exemption is a step in the direction to group individuals and families to identify with organized religions? This takes away the ability for individuals to truly and freely express and practice their religious beliefs by forcing them to conform to the boundaries of institutionalized religion. This proposed legislation will then have the potential to discriminate on basis of religious belief.

For these reasons, I urge you to OPPOSE H.B. 7005 or any bill that would restrict or eliminate the religious belief exemption to vaccination.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Pamela Pinto