

Dear Children's Committee,

I live in Branford and support HB7005. Vaccinations are one of the greatest public health successes ever and have saved countless lives. The success of vaccinations largely depends on a vast majority of the population being vaccinated thus ensuring high vaccination rates is critical. HB7005 removes school nurses as signatories of vaccination exemption forms and allows religious leaders to sign-off on the religious exemption. These provisions will ensure verification of the religious exemption and protect school nurses from being asked to sign-off when they may not have the information to do so (nor does it fall under their responsibilities).

While allowing non-medical exemptions at all is problematic and presents a public health risk, this bill is a step towards reducing unjustified non-medical exemptions.

Katerina Politi