

Dear Children's Committee,

I write in support of HB70057, particularly the section related to removing nurses from the list of persons authorized to sign-off on religious exemptions to vaccines for children.

We look to science for guiding us in public health. The AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) currently recommends that nurses be removed from the list, and we should defer to their collective expertise and role in our society. They further urge religious exemption be taken away for vaccines and that I support as well. Understandably, that is not within the purview of the HB70057. That being my stand, I wouldn't wish to add clergy and other religious officials to authorize it either (as HB70057 does), but if that makes it more burden of proof on those that claim religious exemptions, so be it.

Thank you for acting in the interest of public health in CT and protecting our children of today, citizens and leaders of the future.

Good day!
Bhargavi

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