

Dear Members of the Children's Committee,

I am writing in removal of HB 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.

I ask you to please oppose this bill. First of all HB-7005 according to the Supreme Court is a breach of privacy as both a parent or guardian has the right to choose all decisions regarding their child and education without needing any acknowledgement by a stranger or the State.

" Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," as stated in the Establishment Clause and Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

We as a parent and as citizens should not be forced to have to expose our children's or our own medical records to anyone who is not legally given permission to view and/or discuss it just to be able to adhere to our religious beliefs. Having a school nurse be able to sign an acknowledgment of religious exemptions does not only protect sensitive and private medical information, this is also exercising our rights as citizens in the form of freedom of religion.

It is complete discrimination to say there is any difference between a child who has a medical exemption versus a child with a religious exemption. In addition, to require a clergy member to sign this act is forcing people to adhere to a christian based religion, as many religions do not have clergy. Meaning this violate's a persons right's by forcing them to a specific religious practice.

Lastly, there is no apparent reason to change the current religious exemption and is unconstitutional to allow this. I ask you to please not allow Connecticut residents to become oppressed by this alarmingly, unlawful bill. The state cannot dictate our rights as people and as parents in regards to religion? No representative of Connecticut and of the United States should even create a bill that will seize our right's as citizens for a cause that does not even need revision?

Lastly, Connecticut's CURRENT religious exemption is constitutional and protects our rights. It would be a violation of the First Amendment of the United States to pass this unwarranted bill. HHB7005 is a CLEAR VIOLATION of our freedom of religion and should not be considered.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Resident of Colchester, CT