

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in opposition to: 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.

My opposition to this bill comes as it seeks to suppress our religious freedoms granted by the U.S. and CT State Constitutions. Adding clergy to this document is seeking organized corruption to validate those most vulnerable. Many houses of worship have a financial obligation attached to being a valid and upstanding member of that organization. This has the potential to pose great hardship for anyone going through transitional times or financial turmoil. Seeking acknowledgement through these entities may be near impossible or flat out degrading and humiliating for those who have not been able to keep up with monetary donations and contributions. Imagine being shunned from an organization due to financial constraints and ultimately having to seek that very organizations' validation.

This is the reality for many families here in CT and nationwide. This very reason makes the school nurse a more appropriate and non conflicting acknowledgement. They have no monetary involvement in someone's personal religious convictions. Their signature on this document does not imply or endorse the content, it is simply a recognition to information they are already privy to upon submission.

January 1, 1802 Thomas Jefferson wrote " Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God. That he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship."

I urge you to shut down this bill as it only seeks to re- integrate the corruption of co-mingling matters between church and state. Children will ultimately suffer the consequences of seeking validation through potentially corrupt or judgmental entities.

Barbara S

Hartford County