

Madam Chairs and Distinguished Members of the Children's Committee,

I am writing in opposition 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.

The proposed legislation contradicts several fundamental constitutional rights afforded every U.S. citizen. Ironically, one of the most influential models for the US Constitution was the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut that stated "the foundation of authority is laid in the free consent of the people" or simply put the consent of the governed. This clearly is not reflected in the proposed legislation. Moreover, based on the public outcry the "governed" are not consenting.

A religious belief does not get "acknowledged" by a member of clergy. A religious belief is a deeply held personal conviction. The state has no business infringing on the religious beliefs of its residents. This is an ill-conceived proposition with zero merit and simply serves as a deliberate gateway to additional civil rights violations.

As a tax paying citizen of Connecticut and more importantly a father of a child residing in this state, I deeply oppose to any proposed changes to the current exemption standard.

Gregory S.

Fairfield County Resident