

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Odila Schoenborn and I am a life long resident of Ct , currently residing in Ledyard.

I am also a recently retired RN with over 41 years of continuous clinical work, including 27 years in various pediatric settings.

I am writing you today to ask that you vote NO on HB 7005.

As a mom and new grandmom, I am fully aware of the significant responsibility parents must shoulder in caring for and making all decisions regarding their children.

If parents chose a religious exemption for their children, they are currently allowed, per CT statute, to submit a written note to their school district nurse for verification of such. Nurses are responsible for holding all medical information confidential and we are there to advocate for those whom we have been entrusted to care for, regardless of how we may personally feel about anyone's decision.

By changing this to remove the nurse and add in a clergy member, you are now asking parents to share confidential medical information with non medical people who are not obligated to provide the same care nurses offer.

We have the first Amendment stating that, “ Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;...).

Please respect a parents right to exercise religious exemption here in the state of CT, regardless of how you may personally feel on this subject.

Vote NO on HB 7005!!

Thankyou in advance for your support.

Respectfully submitted
Odila Schoenborn