

Dear 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.

I URGE YOU to OPPOSE this bill. A parent's signature is acknowledged by the school nurse on the religious exemption form. I am not asking for the removal of school nurse on the religious exemption form.

Secondly this bill adds members of clergy as an accepted individual to acknowledge the Religious Exemption. I believe this is separation of church and state. The parents signature is only signature required on the Religious Exemption form. This is not the role of the clergy member of an individual's religious institution/church. Personal religious convictions that are based on one's spiritual beliefs, faith and interpretations of God's teaching, are private. Adding of clergy to acknowledge one's statement may be confused with requiring their agreement or approval of personal religious beliefs. The choices to live a certain way or follow or not follow certain medical procedures is a deeply personal choice. I do not believe that clergy should be involved in these private, family matters.

Our fore fathers fled their countries and came to our great country fleeing religious persecution. Our country is built of the principle of freedom for all. Religious freedom is our right as stated in the first amendment. It is unconstitutional and creates religious discrimination little regard to human rights. Passing HB 7005 blurs the separation of church and state.

In regards to section 20 from the Article First of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, which states: SECTION 20. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the law nor be subjected to segregation or discrimination in the exercise or enjoyment of his /her civil or political rights because of religion, race, color, ancestry or national origin.

Our country is build on FREEDOM. This topic is very personal and dear to myself and my family. HB7005 is targeting one of our most important freedoms. As a father of 4, it is dis-hearting to myself and my family that our personal religious beliefs could lead to discrimination! Our forefathers have fought for equality for all. I am flabbergasted that equality without discrimination in our great country is still an issue!

I RESPECTFULLY IMPLOR YOU, TO OPPOSE HB 7005.

Sincerely,

Dr. Len Sclafani, DC