

Dear Members of the Committee,

Please oppose HB 7005.

This bill is the first step down a very dangerous path towards attacking our Religious Exemption from vaccination in Connecticut.

This particular bill is quite sneaky in how it operates.

HB 7005 takes the seemingly small step of writing into law the idea that the State has the right to look for "proof" of my religious ideas around personal medical care.

Right now, the only people who can sign for my Religious Exemption are government agents. When they approve it, **they are not validating the specific details of my spirituality.**

They are simply acknowledging the fact that I have filed the form.

A clergy member, however, is speaking to the VALIDITY of my spirituality when he signs my form. He is speaking to the question of whether he thinks I am **interpreting my religion properly.**

Which is an insidious and potentially quite a serious encroachment onto religious freedom.

Clergy members do not determine whether our internal spirituality is valid or invalid. That is an entirely false premise.

It is a clear entry-level attack on freedom of conscience, and it should be opposed with as much vigor as any other such attack.

Please reject this sneaky and insidious bill.

Thanks very sincerely,

Laura Smith

Newtown, CT