



Universal Life Church Ministries

"We are all children of the same universe."

February 5, 2019

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

I am writing in opposition of HB-7005. As an ordained minister, the purpose of my work is to pastor my flock, not to acknowledge documents. This proposed bill is putting clergy in the uncomfortable position of having to needlessly confirm the identity of our members in relation to their medical decisions. I am well aware who my congregation members are, and their medical decisions should remain private.

A religious belief does not get "acknowledged" by an ecclesiastic. A religious belief is a deeply held personal conviction. The state has no business infringing on the religious beliefs of its residents. The first amendment protects religious freedoms and as a minister, I find this bill overreaching and too revealing for my flock and their beliefs. There is no reason for the state to identify the ministries or the people within those ministries with a religious belief against vaccines.

Several members of my ministry have made me aware that there is a minimal amount of religious exemptions in regard to vaccines even being utilized in our state. Why would our state choose to go after such a small number of families? Will we be asking these children to wear yellow stars once you identify them? Please oppose this bill and what it stands for and the potential harm it could cause our great state.

Respectfully submitted,

Reverend William Sullivan



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