

ATTENTION: State of CT Joint Committee on Children

kidtestimony@cga.ct.gov

DATE: February 5, 2019

RE: HB-7005

As a citizen of the State of CT, I strongly oppose the HB-7005 bill. Our liberty, including our religious freedom, is protected, as stated by our forefathers, in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. This bill clearly violates our First Amendment rights, as well as the separation of church and state, as outlined in our Constitution.

School Nurses merely acknowledge the exemption form submitted by the parent, usually after it has been notarized. Eliminating the School Nurse, and replacing the nurse with a clergy member would only complicate the situation. The school nurse has to be involved as the nurse holds the medical files for all of the school's students. The Nurse / Patient relationship must be kept intact. There is no need to make this proposed change.

The current Religious Exemption from vaccinations helps protect my family, as well as many other families, whose religious beliefs do not allow for vaccinations as they exist today.

I urge you to ignore the testimony from the American Academy of Pediatrics, as they are a health forum funded by pharmaceutical companies. No entity, including the AAP, has the right to remove my constitutional rights to religious freedom or to remove our rights to provide my children with a public education in this state.

Mary Ann Tuska

Stratford, CT

