

Dear Members of the Committee on Children,

I am here today to express my opposition to Raised 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 ask that you come up with a better solution that protects the needs of parents/guardians. The proposed change does not consider the right of parents and children's privacy of medical information. By disallowing the school nurse to accept acknowledgement of the religious exemption letter, you are therefore requiring parents to disclose such information to non-medical persons in order to enroll in school. Furthermore, the information is disclosed to persons that are not involved in public education. I do not know if this is a HIPAA violation, however I feel it is the duty of the legislature when enacting law or changes to law around medical disclosures, to ensure they are not going against the spirit of HIPAA and to protect privacy. Again, a better solution is needed.

It is disheartening to read that some, many, or all parents are allegedly using the religious exemption for non-religious reasons to avoid vaccination.

- I am here today to let you know that I am one of the people using the religious exemption according to my religious beliefs and creed.
- I am here today to urge you to kill this bill as it does impinge on my children's right to medical privacy.
- I am here today angered and saddened that I must disclose information publicly that I would prefer to keep private, infringing upon my and my children's rights, in order to protect our rights.
- I am here today to heartfully thank the school nurses for the work they do, and caring for our children. I say this from personal experience with one of my daughters; her school nurse went above and beyond in a very dark time for my family.
- I am here today as part of a minority of parents that choose to not vaccinate our children. I ask that as you consider all legislation around vaccination, and all medical procedures, to stand up for our rights. As many of you may be able to relate it is not a good place to be ridiculed, shamed, and or bullied for your beliefs.

Thank you,

Mike U

New Haven County