

February 7, 2019

Members of the Children's Committee,

My testimony today is in opposition to HB 7005. This bill seeks to add unnecessary input to a child's medical record from a member of the clergy whose religious beliefs may not align with those of the parents. According to CT General Statute section 46a-64(https://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/pub/chap_814c.htm#sec_46a-64) a person's religious creed is protected under the law and as such requires public accommodation including participation in the public school system. It does not require interpretation or evaluation by any other person.

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I am concerned this bill is merely a stepping-stone towards complete removal of the religious exemption. CT General Statute section 10-15c (https://www.cga.ct.gov/2017/pub/chap_164.htm#sec_10-15) prohibits discrimination in public schools and clearly states that a child shall have the opportunity to participate in activities, programs and studies without religious discrimination.

CT has one of the highest vaccination rates in the country according to the CDC. This unnecessary bill targets the few families who choose to exercise their lawful right to a religious exemption from vaccination. It is in conflict with our First Amendment rights allowing the free exercise of religion without fear of government interception. Furthermore it's a direct violation of HIPPA, which restricts access to a person's private medical information.

HB 7005 is discriminatory and unjust. I ask that you vote no on this bill.

Respectfully,

Christine Ulicki