

Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing regarding 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.

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution says congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. CT's State Constitution Sec 3 says the enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination shall forever be free to all persons in the state.

There is nothing wrong with the current religious exemption form allowing school nurses to sign. They can decline if they'd like, but the option should be there for convenience, and privacy of the students medical information.

Adding clergy to acknowledge the religious exemption is very concerning. I can easily see a push happening to make that a requirement, which would be used by some politicians to restrict religious exemptions. Furthermore, I don't want to share my children's private medical information with clergy, or anyone else besides their doctors and schools as already required.

Around the country, states are rapidly losing their religious exemptions. Quite frankly, this is harassment. Not a lot of people in this state object to vaccinations on religious grounds, but we are fervent in our beliefs. Trying to force vaccines into my children's bodies is un American. Please let it remain my body, my choice, or my children's body, parent's choice. I know what's best for my family, not the government. Please oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Williams