

Dear Esteemed Members of the Committee on Children:

I am witting to express my opposition to H.B. No. 7005 (RAISED) 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.

As a parent, I am standing strongly against this proposal because it goes against my personal religious beliefs to vaccinate myself and my family. I do not have a "clergy" and my religion will never require one. The fact that this bill intends to replace the school nurse for a "clergy" member leaves me in a difficult position. The school nurse already has access to my son's personal medical records. Inviting a "clergy" member access to these records is not something I feel comfortable with allowing.

There are many interpretations of what defines a religion, but not ONE that can be said to be the most accurate. With well over 4,000 recognized religions, to require a "clergy" member's signature for a religious exemption is discriminating against MANY of these religions. This bill is most certainly not a separation of church and state, and should not be allowed to move forward.

Thank you for considering my request.

Very respectfully,

Jason Y.

Resident of New London County