

TO: Senator Mary Abrams, Representative Liz Linehan and Members of the Committee on Children

Simply put, I whole heartily OPPOSE bill HB 7005. There were no issues with the current exemption form or the matter in which it was submitted. Where lies the state interest in whether a child receives a religious exemption and where that acknowledgement came from? How does this affect the state?

Seems from what I have been hearing is that school nurses "don't want to get involved" in such a controversial topic. If this is true, which let's face it...no one thinks it is, there is a very simple way to handle this. EDUCATE the nurses on what their role would be as a signatory.

All they are doing is confirming the signer's identity. They are not confirming anything having to do with religion and in fact, it is something that they shouldn't even be asking questions about.

They are not showing agreement or disagreement. They are not to ask any questions other than to just confirm identity. Refusal to acknowledge a parental form is DISCRIMINATION of creed.

What should happen: get them a memo as soon as possible to clarify all of this, free of legislative intervention.

Also, adding a clergy member to the list of signatories allowed is unnecessary and adds an additional element of confusion to parents all over Connecticut. I have read a letter from Universal Life Ministries and it clearly shows that even clergy members misunderstand what their role would be as a signatory.

The biggest problem here is the legislative creep. Not to mention that as far as religion goes, not everyone practices the same. Not all attend a church or place where they have clergy members. The first amendment allows freedom of religious practice...so just because a person does not attend a church does not mean their choice of religion is lesser, it just means a clergy member as a signatory is not always possible. This bill is a direct loss of a freedom that we as citizens have a right to. Health choice is and should be free.

This bill is no more than a personal attack that crosses the line of separation of church and state and it is COMPLETELY unconstitutional.

I along with MANY, urge you to oppose this bill and preserve constitutional parental rights.

Thank you,

Dan Young

