

02/05/19

To the Members of the Committee:

I am presenting you this testimony in order to request from you to oppose the HB 7005 bill.

The very high level of leadership you represent empowers you to make decisions in crucial and critical cases. The HB 7005 bill is one of them; as it affects directly very private and personal aspects of other peoples' lives. As the legislators you must be aware that among your electorate there are very different kinds of individuals whose beliefs, opinions, points of view are highly unlike. As the result of that, many among them truly rely on and need to be granted the free use of the religious exemption rule. As much as those people are different, they do have one important thing in common though; they trusted you during the election and you have been selected by them to represent their best interest! Therefore I am very kindly asking you to be respectful for your voters' dissimilarities and support those who choose to use the religious exemption. In their opinion, it is for the best interest of their own children and families!

As much as religion is a very vast topic, it is definitely one of the most private aspects for all of us. Exercising religious beliefs does not require a physical place of worship; some people do not feel a need to have a religious leader, who they need to follow. That is why the proposed changes in the religious exemption rule are morally wrong. For many devoted and loving parents the safety and wellbeing of their own children has become their religion. And nobody else, but parents know their children best, therefore they are the most competent party to make right decisions about their state of being and take accountability for them.

Please do not let this bill proceed passively. If you already have your mind set on letting it pass, please think twice. There are honest, happy and healthy families out there whose lives will change, whose lives will be broken. There are parents who will feel powerless, hopeless, betrayed, whose faith in the freedom of choice that they are granted by the Constitution, will be crushed. If you are still debating, please educate yourself before allowing any changes in this matter.

Please allow the religious exemption rule remain in its form, as it does clearly confirm that the State of Connecticut is the "Land of the Free" and the home of very respectful and open-minded people, who cherish their similarities, support each other and recognize their differences, and most of all, they do not blindly follow any bad example.

Thank you for taking your time to read my testimony.

Sincerely,

Anna Zackiewicz

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