

May 13, 2019

Dear Connecticut Legislators,

The removal of the Religious Exemption in Connecticut will not directly impact me, but I was taught that when you see an injustice being done, you need to stand up or you are no better than the oppressors. This attack on religious freedoms does not protect our children. If we are really concerned about children's safety, then its time to ask some hard questions.

In *Bruesewitz v. Wyeth*, the supreme court ruled in favor of vaccine manufacturers declaring that they could not be sued in state court for damages as a result of design defects in their products. In the dissenting opinion of Justices Sotomayor and Ginsberg, they said *"the majority's decision leaves a regulatory vacuum in which no one—neither the FDA nor any other federal agency, nor state and federal juries—ensures that vaccine manufacturers adequately take account of scientific and technological advancements. This concern is especially acute with respect to vaccines that have already been released and marketed to the public. Manufacturers, given the lack of robust competition in the vaccine market, will often have little or no incentive to improve the designs of vaccines that are already generating significant profit margins."*

So I ask you, how does giving a company complete protection from any accountability for the vaccines they produce make our children safe? This blanket immunity seems to be more of a threat to our children than anything else. If we want to make a change that will actually help to protect children, then lets give the vaccine manufacturers at least one reason to care about their safety because businesses do not protect people, they protect profit. This is the problem we should be fixing, instead of trying to restrict religious freedom under the ruse that it will keep the immunocompromised children safe. If teachers, secretaries, principals, school nurses, janitors, cafeteria staff, school bus drivers and parents that volunteer in classrooms don't need to show vaccine records, why are we even talking about taking away religious exemptions? Wasn't it adults who came down with the measles this year in Connecticut?

In conclusion, I hope Connecticut's leaders do not hastily react to the current public hysteria. I hope they lead the charge in fixing the real problem and the real threat to our children that vaccines with zero liability pose. I hope that Connecticut will not be a state that discriminates against and marginalizes people who exercise their religious freedoms.

Sincerely,  
Your Hopeful Constituent