I am posting my testimony in opposition to removing the current religious exemption for vaccines in CT.

At this time there is no public health crisis and even though some of the DPH numbers were incorrect, most schools were above the 95% needed for herd immunity anyway. Some schools with higher numbers were small private schools whose numbers were skewed due to low enrollment.

I feel that a person's religious beliefs should not cause them to lose access to public schools where there is no health crisis. Many families in CT are dual income and would not be able to homeschool there children. This will cause financial hardship for these families.

I also don't think it is necessary to alienate and segregate people who have different religious beliefs. This would only take children away from sports, friends and school activities even though there is no emergency health crisis in CT. Public school is very important and forcing people to homeschool is not a good step in helping Connecticut's diverse population thrive and grow.

Sincerely,

Amy Stamford