

ATTENTION: Committee on Children

DATE: 5/13/19

EMAIL: kidtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Regarding: Possible emergency bill to remove religious exemptions

Opposition to removing religious exemptions for vaccines

Why we are here today when there has been no bill introduced, when neither the public nor the legislators know what language a possible bill will include, when the committee process time to introduce a bill has passed, and when there is no formal public hearing scheduled? I am concerned. We are submitting testimony at an informational hearing not knowing what you as legislators will be specifically deciding upon. To be frank, that is not fair play.

That is not an ethical legislative process for such a complex and controversial matter that directly affects Connecticut families. It seems this is a move to bypass the legislative process with an emergency bill for a non-emergency. What precedence does this set?

If a bill is to be amended or an emergency bill introduced, I am deeply concerned about our legislative government. There is no emergency for which we need to ram this through when there are literally zero reported cases of measles in children in Connecticut. On the contrary, we had 3 reported cases of measles in previously vaccinated adults.

The Department of Public Health has now twice released inaccurate school vaccination rates; these are the erroneous numbers upon which the Attorney General based his opinion and upon which you will supposedly base yours. Connecticut has the top child vaccination rate in the U.S..

I am now speaking directly to our Democrat legislators. I come to you as a lifelong Democrat who has faithfully served her Democratic town committee for over a decade. We are a party that champions nature, minorities, the "little guy," corporate conflicts of interest and corruption, and parental rights and bodily autonomy. I come to you perplexed as to why Democrats are implementing emergency orders for a "manufactured" emergency when we are supposedly the party of "my body, my choice."

I can tell you that as a nature-loving, anti-corporate conflict of interest, pro-LGBTQ equality, Jewish mother with so many other Democrat-leaning viewpoints, I am disappointed. It truly distresses me to say that. If I need to forsake my religious and medical freedom and choice—and risk the well-being of my own child—in the name of societal good, we have gone too far left as a party and not learned our lesson from the 1930-1940s about erosion of rights and government control.

Thank you for taking the time to read my opposition testimony. I truly hope you will take these concerns into account.

Sincerely,

Ariana Rawls Fine
Stratford, CT