

To whom it may concern:

I am writing you today because I have learned that CT legislators are considering removing the Religious Exemption for vaccinations.

I am OPPOSED to the removal of the Religious Exemption because not only is it a violation of religious liberty, it is also a violation of all schools' non-discrimination statements, that declare that no students will be discriminated against on the basis of their religious beliefs.

There is no public health crisis currently ongoing in the state of CT that would warrant the removal of this exemption, and it is an infringement upon the rights of CT citizens to freely exercise their religious beliefs.

Also, I implore you to think of the long-term consequences that this type of action will have on the lives of these families that use the exemption. Kids who love school, who are excelling at it, will need to be told that they can no longer attend. Imagine the sadness they will experience when they learn that they are no longer permitted to be with their peers, simply because of their vaccination status. This is heartbreaking to me. Not only will they be barred from schools but also from all other activities that require proof of immunization. They will be, in essence, cut off from many aspects of community, and many educational opportunities.

I implore you to vote no to removing the religious exemption. Let us not join the 3 other states that have decided not to guarantee their citizens the right to exercise their religious freedoms, and have decided to deny the right to a free public education to various children in their communities, because of their parents' and their religious beliefs. Let us remain with the other 47 states that believe in maintaining religious liberty and continuing to provide public education, for ALL of their citizens.

Thank you for all that you do,
Brittany Kilburn