

To Members of the Public Health Committee,

I am writing in regards to the public hearing on Monday, May 13th, 2019 to remove the Religious Exemption in Connecticut. I am deeply opposed to this move, and am asking you to vote NO.

This is a completely unnecessary move, there is no emergency situation in Connecticut to even validate proposing a bill like this. Connecticut is known as "The Constitution State", and freedom and expression of religious beliefs is part of the US Constitution. Our country was founded by people seeking reprieve from religious oppression, who wanted to follow their beliefs without persecution. Removing the religious exemption is a direct violation of our rights, and sullies our history.

Much talk about how other states are removing the religious exemption keeps going on. There are only three other states who have done so, while other states have pursued the road of expanding the freedoms of it's citizens. Why are our Connecticut legislators so concerned with following in the footsteps of these three other states? Why don't we focus on our beliefs, on our citizens, our families and friends? Are we so concerned with "keeping up" with these three other states that we are willing to give up our own rights?

I believe there are so many other important issues in Connecticut right now, that we should not be focusing on the destruction of our Constitutional rights, undermining everything that is the foundation of our very state and ourselves. Why don't we lead instead of follow? Show other states how preserving the parental and personal rights and religious freedoms of Americans is one of the most constitutional and patriotic measures we can undertake.

Please vote NO on this measure. Please do not remove our religious exemption. Please continue to support and protect the rights of parents, families, and individuals.

Thank you for your time,
Brittney Edo
Milford