

Dear Public Health Committee Members and CT Representatives,

As a resident in "The Constitution State", I strongly believe that you should vote NO removing religious exemption for childhood vaccines since it a clear violation of the Constitution's 1st Amendment:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Removing religious exemption for childhood vaccines would be discriminatory against my strong religious beliefs, that of many of our citizens, and a clear violation of our constitution.

The repercussions of removing religious exemption would be far reaching. Parents with strong religious beliefs would be forced to vaccinate their children, quit their jobs and homeschool, or move out of state. Due to the state of our economy and high cost of living in Connecticut, it isn't feasible for most families to survive on a single income if these parents had to stay home and school their children. If the government forces unvaccinated children to be removed from public schools, they should be prepared to refund tax dollars to those families since public schools are paid for by our taxes.

There are not issues with the current Connecticut state laws on childhood vaccines as evidenced by the fact that *Connecticut already has one of the highest vaccination rates in the country according to the CDC website*. This bill is wasting the legislators time stirring up a health crisis where there is none.

As your constituent, I ask you PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION FOR VACCINES TO BE ELIMINATED.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jessica
Hartford County