

Members of the Committee,

I'm upset because this is not a public hearing. We deserve a chance to testify on a bill. There is a correct process that needs to be followed, and that hasn't happened here, while you try to take away our religious freedom.

I used to be pro vaccine. That all changed when I was pregnant with my now 4 year old, and discovered that aborted fetal tissue is used in vaccines. That was an eye opener, because I am pro- life. I continued researching and found that animal cells, carcinogens, MSG and other toxins make up vaccines. A person can be against vaccines for religious and philosophical reasons. But hearing legislators doubting our religious beliefs is completely unacceptable. I don't have to explain my religion to any government authority.

It's a well-known fact that the DPH data is inaccurate. Additionally, how many people use the Religious Exemption for just the flu shot, for example? That makes the data even less concerning, if what we're worried about is the measles.

If you get rid of the exemption, I need to give my healthy 4 and 2 year olds 29 vaccines in order for them to go to nursery school. Who in their right mind, would look at my healthy children, and say that giving them 29 vaccines would improve their health?

You say you aren't mandating vaccines, that we can just take our children out of schools we love, and homeschool them. When given the choice to vaccinate or homeschool, that's coercion. I don't have the luxury to stay home with my kids, first of all, and second of all, I want them to go to either public or private school to get an education that they have a right to.

Why are you attacking the religious freedom of a small amount of people in this state? We are not a threat to anyone's health. I see our legislators talk all about religious rights, and in fact, I know of legislators who have used the Religious Exemption for their own children, and now I am in fear that they will vote to take that right from me away. Please, vote to keep our Religious Exemption. I honestly believe most of you don't understand how much harm you'd be doing by taking it away.

Every day I pray, "Dear God, please thwart the plans of those in power, who are trying to take away our religious freedom."

Thank you,

Elizabeth Williams

Branford, CT

