

Dear Legislators,

I am here today as a parent who loves her child and as a citizen who loves her unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness afforded to us in this great country. I am beyond despair that my choices, my freedoms and my child's right to a public education because of our deeply held religious beliefs are now under scrutiny, being debated and at risk of being taken away. For what? For what I believe is a manufactured crisis. There is no state of emergency here. I believe, for whatever reason, that this has been an orchestrated agenda which spans back for me personally 5 years, when I first heard my religious exemption was in jeopardy, in 2015. I will never forget, Representative Ritter at the capitol, addressing our group of concerned parents on an aside. He said to us, and I'm paraphrasing, "you may have won this time, but there will be no vaccine religious exemption by 2020." I guess he is a little ahead of schedule.

Everyone who is a proponent of removing our religious exemption reiterates that this is a public health concern and not about civil liberties. I disagree. I want to ask you to think logically with the following fact: In the state of CT, a child with hepatitis B is not only allowed but protected to attend school. BUT a child who is not vaccinated for hepatitis B is not allowed to go to school? How does this make sense? How can one child with the disease be protected by the state but a child without the vaccine for the disease is not? The whole vaccine debate is wrought with these types of cognitive dissonances. Consider these points made by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. which he calls "The Amended Liberal Credo":

1. Censorship is bad except when it comes to vaccines
2. "Informed consent" should apply to every medical product and intervention — except vaccines
3. America should honor her treaty obligations under the Nuremberg Code and the ethical precepts of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights — except where they impede forced vaccination
4. Every medicine should be safety tested — except vaccines
5. Pharma is greedy, homicidal and untrustworthy — except about vaccines
6. Mercury and aluminum are dangerous neurotoxins — except in vaccines
7. LISTEN TO WOMEN — except about vaccines
8. "MY BODY, MY CHOICE — except with vaccines
9. Glyphosate and formaldehyde cause cancer — except in vaccines
10. Borax, banned in food — but not in vaccines
11. Vaccines are so unavoidably unsafe they need legal immunity, yet so incredibly safe that it's ethical to mandate them
12. Agencies get captured — except with vaccines
13. People in power lie — except about vaccines
14. Industry falsifies climate science — but not vaccine safety science
15. QUESTION AUTHORITY — but not about vaccines
16. Critical thinking and skepticism are democratic virtues — but not about vaccines
17. Never govern by fear — except with vaccines
18. Demagoguery, scapegoating, hate speech, cruelty and bullying are wrong — except about anti-vaxxers (aka: the moms of intellectually disabled children)
19. Banning minority children from schools and public places is reprehensible — except with the unvaccinated

This is the kind of logic, or illogic, that gives me pause and should give you pause too before rushing through the removal of our first amendment freedom of religion, and our governance to make decisions over our bodies and the bodies of our children.

Sincerely,

Gina Consiglio  
Madison, CT