

Relative to recent efforts by Matt Ritter, Liz Linehan and Josh Elliott regarding the elimination of Religious Exemption in Connecticut and recent notification of urgent actions as soon as next week, I am writing you to discuss my emphatic opposition.

This is a violation of religious freedom, plain and simple. They are using fear of a measles “outbreak” to infringe on religious freedoms that will affect thousands of healthy children from attending public schools. This is a crime in itself to withhold public education from these children. Homeschooling isn’t an option for every family and also suggests segregation. If tax-paying families are forced into homeschooling then they should demand tax stipends for not being able to utilize their public school system. Never in my lifetime did I think I’d have to stand up for my religious freedoms in light of my grandparents having escaped from the Holocaust.

There have been 3 known measles cases in the state of Connecticut in the last 7-8 months which were confirmed to be in adults. There is question as to whether or not many of the national measles cases have been a result of wild measles, or strains found within the vaccines the infected person received. There is no measles crisis. There is no necessity to remove Religious Exemption. If you want to believe that herd immunity is needed to prevent the illness, then be rest assured that CT has one of the highest vaccination rates in the country. Then you have to also ask yourself how much herd immunity matters when many adults are not up to date on vaccinations and yet we are still not experiencing a crisis. If there is a concern with measles, let’s talk measles and look at the data. To jump into removal of Religious Exemption is not a solution; it’s a faulty proposition that is abhorrently wrong, discriminatory, and screams there are conflicts of interest at play.

Regards,

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