

Public Testimony, May 13, 2019

Bill Number Unknown: Related to the removal of the Religious Exemption. I fully oppose the removal of the Religious Exemption in CT and recommend bringing back the philosophical exemption. Parents deserve choice.

Dear Representatives & Senators,

I am reaching out to you as a concerned citizen of CT, regarding the debate over the religious exemption. The data released last week related to the ME and RE percentages in schools is misleading to say the least, but in my opinion, a calculated move to win rather than to protect public health. Many superintendents have refuted their data as being incorrect and provided accurate data - this needs to be shared with the public as well as with all of you in order for a proper decision to be made.

The data shared is misleading because many RE's are used by parents whose belief system (there is no rule on what we believe in) is that if they continue to vaccinate their child(ren) they will be FURTHER injured. The data also includes children in preschool programs across CT, many who just use the RE for the Flu shot that is mandated in child care centers. This number is over 1000 and is skewing the data within school systems. The compiled data report only gives details on % of RE's and ME's at each school (many schools are inaccurate).

What I am being told about the removal of the RE is that it addresses the public health crisis – ensures children are protected from the measles “disease”. First, measles is not a “disease”, it is a virus that lasts up to 10 days. Disease is something you get and does not go away, a virus passes in 7 to 10 days. We have vaccines on the schedule that are not related to public health concerns, so again what is the public health crisis to take away the RE?. If we are focusing on the measles cases rising across the country, then the only data that should be reviewed is the Measles vaccine data and at the K and 7th grade level and that data shows 95% vaccination rates and higher at the majority of public schools. CT has one of the highest rates in the country for vaccine compliance. As a state we have a 98.7% vaccination coverage rate, so where is this public health crisis I keep hearing about?

My question is - what public health crisis do we have in CT? How many children have had the measles in the last 20 years in CT? How many of those children were school age and what was their vaccination status? DPH will not release current data on the 3 confirmed measles cases in CT, related to age and vaccine status yet they reveal personal data on ME's and RE's to the entire state.

As a mom of a vaccine injured child, who is not able to get a medical exemption due to doctors either refusing in fear of losing their license, or those who just flat out don't agree despite the evidence. I am scared out of my mind over this decision to remove the RE. I have done years of research and I did not make my decision lightly to stop vaccinations for my children. We have a broken system that needs to be fixed to protect already injured children, and those at risk due to family history or genetics from future injury. My family carries a rare form of the MTHFR gene:

this is a gene that causes methylation problems, we don't detox like someone without the gene and it puts us at greater risk for vaccine injury (see 1 below).

We now live in a world where pediatricians are turning away families who do not follow the CDC schedule for vaccines - this in my mind is medical malpractice. Blue Cross Blue Shield pays \$400 to a pediatric office if 63% of the children in the practice are fully vaccinated, and if the office hits 100% they get paid \$800 per child. Think about it this way: a pediatric office with 100 patients gets paid \$40,000 for 63% vaccination rate, or \$80,000 for 100%. If the practice is large and has 1000 patients that's \$400,000 versus \$800,000 per year. With money tied to vaccines Doctors are no longer practicing "do no harm", they are practicing "what will get me the most money". I loved my pediatrician, but Marlborough Pediatrics told him he had too many patients that were either not vaccinating, or were doing a delayed schedule and that he had to tell us to get up to date or get out. He made the decision to leave instead. I left once he was gone and found a physician who would support my choice to protect my children. Soon after I left letters were sent out to families of Marlborough Pediatrics to get your child up to date or you would have to leave. This is illegal: if they make you leave their practice, they MUST help you find another physician before you are released from their care and they must have a valid legal reason to do so, which they did not. CT law does not require parents to vaccinate. My Pediatrician left the practice because he did not want to tell this to his patients, but in the end, he now is opening his own practice in Glastonbury and is NOT accepting patients unless they are following the CDC schedule, so he left to avoid kicking patients out, but is now discriminating against patients – this is illegal in CT. Other states are passing laws to stop Doctors from doing just this. They are not just paid for vaccines, but for other drugs as well. See 2 below.

Vaccines are not a one size fits all. Vaccines are NOT 100% safe nor effective, and so when there is risk, there must be choice. If certain legislators are concerned about their "claim" there are families who use the RE "falsely", then bring back the philosophical exemption which was taken away years ago. Make it easier to get an ME for an injured child, and not just for the vaccine that injured them, but for all vaccines. All Religious Exemptions for families that choose should remain, as this is part of our constitutional rights– currently we have 1.4% with RE's in CT, less than 1300 children. This matter is not cut and dry, taking away the RE will not change things for public health – look at CA for example. CA removed the RE, yet they are now having increased cases of measles and their rates % rate for MMR have not changed. Their removal did nothing for public health other than to force vaccinate healthy children, take away people's rights – and of course make people money.

In 1986 a law passed which stopped people from being able to sue the manufacturers of vaccines – VAERS ([VAERS website](#)) was created so that those injured could sue in Federal court. Lawsuits for vaccine injury average 3 to 7 years for a payout to families. Each vaccine is taxed so there is money for injury or death compensation. The tax payers are footing the bill for injuries, not the pharmaceutical companies. Tax payers have paid over \$400 BILLION in vaccine injuries and deaths. If the tax payers are paying for vaccine injuries, then tax payers should have the choice to decide if they vaccinate or not. Prior to this law passing, manufacturers of vaccines, due to rising insurance costs and increased vaccine costs, due to parents suing for injury thought about abandoning the vaccines altogether, they were close to bankruptcy – if they really worked and thought vaccines could stop public health crisis's, then

they would have made it work. So, in 1986 vaccines were about to be shut down with no concern for outbreaks; this should make you question things and wonder. Vaccines have been debated and protested for years, what is taking place today is not new. We can't compare what took place 100 years ago, to what is taking place today. See number 3 and 4 below.

Informed consent is part of the 1986 law, yet that never takes place. I have never once been shown a vaccine insert, been told about the adverse events each vaccine may cause, been asked about my family history or had genetic testing requested for my children by their pediatrician. What I got was bullied, told I was a bad mom if I did not do what the doctor said and now today my daughter is paying for my choices - well no more!

Are you away the CDC has a list of those who should NOT get the MMR vaccine? (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mmr/public/index.html>) One of the statements says any person who has had another vaccine within 4 weeks should NOT get the MMR - well this is concerning to me since at the 1-year appointment the CDC recommends pediatricians may give: HebB, Hib, PCV, Polio, Flu, Varicella and the MMR. That is 9 doses in 7 shots, does this sound safe to give a 12-month-old baby and when the CDC says not to give MMR this way? Mothers of injured children are not anti-vax, we are exvaxxers, we did follow the CDC schedule blindly with no informed consent and now we are paying the price and so are our children. We need choice to protect our children: the medical exemption is not working. (CDC Schedule: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/child-adolescent.html> - check it out and see the 50 doses a child between the age of birth and 6 must receive, this was not the case in 1986 it was a total of 11 from birth to 18)

We hear a lot about Herd Immunity: this is a myth for vaccines. Herd immunity was coined in 1933 and it was related to immunity based upon people getting the actual illness, not from the vaccine. It was stated that if about 60% of the population got the wild form of an illness then the rest of the "herd" would be protected. Over the years they used this term for vaccines and took it from 60% to now 95% - yet we have 95% coverage and we are still seeing measles - kind of makes you go "hmm?". We have 95% coverage and yet Legislators are threatening to take away the RE.

See number 5 below.

I ask you to please really take the time to review the data presented below and sit back and think about the decision to remove the RE - is it the only decision? Should more research be done? What public health crisis is there that warrants this rash and unjust decision making? Is the choice to vote no in the best interest of CT's children? What would you do if your Legislator asked you to make a choice between protecting your child's health, and your child's right to education?

Here are a few links to some great information about vaccines:

1. The video discusses genetics and vaccines, about 3.5 min in she talks about methylation problems, one of those is the MTHFR gene which my whole family has, we're at great risk of vaccine injury due to our inability to detox

https://youtu.be/e7115_3BG-I

2. Booklet for BCBS incentive booklet
<http://www.whale.to/c/2016-BCN-BCBSM-Incentive-Program-Booklet.pdf>
3. Law – you can sue a vaccine manufacturer
<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/42/300aa-22>
4. 1986 NY Times Article
<https://www.nytimes.com/1986/11/15/us/reagan-signs-bill-on-drug-exports-and-payment-for-vaccine-injuries.html>
5. This link speaks to Herd Immunity which is the big reason this issue is being debated:
<https://healthimpactnews.com/2013/the-herd-immunity-myth-treating-our-children-like-cattle-2/>

Here is another video by a doctor that has been studying vaccines for years, she provides very detailed information, both pros and cons:

<https://vimeo.com/146831570?fbclid=IwAR3CwmXmIqarwXoyX80y-ErktNs0rmQEII0--f84HWihnXOV7NPMSwYdA5Y>

Thank you,
Jessica

A very concerned and well education mother, with years of research, almost 2000 pages of data collected, working to protect my injured child and all children in the US.