

Dear Committee Members,

I know you are all extremely busy currently and I appreciate you taking the time to read my testimony. As a highly taxed citizen, I am very concerned that legislative due process is not being upheld in Connecticut.

Immunization rates by schools were published last Friday, which we now know are riddled with errors. Some rates were published at 10x higher than they actual are (Redding & Haddam for example, but there are many more). The incorrect data, though, is still being used to drum up support for removing the religious exemption. It is being used to fear monger and produce a manufactured "crisis", when there simply isn't one.

Consider this:

3 unrelated measles cases in CT this year - **ALL ADULTS**

0 cases of measles in a CT school

0 deaths in recent measles outbreaks in other states

3 measles deaths in the entire U.S. in the past **27 years**

47 States have a religious exemption and **17** states also have a philosophical exemption

Per the Dept. Of Health, MMR rates have remained steady in CT schools for the past 5 years, well above herd immunity:

Year	Kindergarten	7th Grade
	MMR	MMR
	Vaccinated %	Vaccinated %
2017-2018	96.5%	98.4%
2016-2017	96.7%	98.6%
2015-2016	97.0%	98.7%
2014-2015	97.0%	98.8%
2013-2014	96.9%	98.6%

As rates have not changed, we can assume the same "pockets" of unvaccinated children have also not changed in the past 5 years, and still we have had **NO** outbreaks.

There is **NO** "crisis" to warrant removing a religious freedom in this state, trampling parental rights or kicking thousands of kids out of school.

This is a complex issues that cannot be decided based on faulty data and irrational panic.

Please **DO NOT** kick healthy, innocent children out of school! Please **DO NOT** put pharma profits and legislative corruption above our children's lives!

Repealing the religious exemption will turn kid's lives upside down. It has the potential to tear families apart if they are forced to move out of state or quit jobs in order to homeschool. And still, the vaccine rates will barely budge.

Please vote NO to any legislation that would repeal the religious exemption.

Thank you for protecting our rights in Connecticut.

Katy H.

Fairfield County Resident