

Good morning. My name is Kristina Jankowski. I am a nurse and also hold a bachelor's in public health. I appreciate everyone meeting on such short notice in the interest of public health.

I am here today to give some facts on why this issue has been tainted and how I believe the integrity of our state representation is being compromised with several conflicts of interest. Legislation that infringes on our rights—no matter the sense of urgency—should not be passed without making sure the individuals proposing these changes do not have conflicts.

Rep. Liz Linehan's husband is employed by Boehringer Ingelheim, which is now heavily investing in vaccines; it will likely receive substantial profits from future FDA-approved products, particularly if they are mandated for school attendance. Rep. Linehan has stated on social media that her husband does not work on vaccine development and "makes absolutely zero dollars from the sales or use of vaccines." She also incorrectly states that Boehringer Ingelheim does not make human vaccines. The company is entering the human vaccine market and has three current human vaccines undergoing clinical trials. One is a novel flu vaccine for immunocompromised individuals. Since young children have suboptimal immune responses, this vaccine may one day be marketed and become mandated for children in Connecticut.

Boehringer Ingelheim is also a partner of the Human Vaccines Project, which lists veteran vaccinologist and rubella vaccine developer Stanley Plotkin, MD, as a board member. Why would a company maintain such a partnership if it had no interest in creating vaccines that will one day become mandatory?

In addition, Rep. Linehan's sister-in-law is a microbiologist and research associate in Dr. Akiko Iwasaki's lab at Yale University; the lab is currently focused on developing a vaccine for herpes simplex viruses. Will this vaccine become mandated as well like Gardasil might for HPV? Is Rep. Linehan a neutral party as she attempts to mandate vaccines on a small minority of Connecticut children with religious exemptions? Or do her family connections to vaccine developers constitute a conflict of interest?

Rep. Matt Ritter also has ties through his Shipman and Goodwin employer, where he is a partner, as well as his father's employer, Brown Rudnick. Both firms represent Boehringer Ingelheim as well as Brown Rudnick representing the Healthcare Distribution Alliance and its pharmaceutical distributors.

Rep. Ritter is attempting to overturn the religious exemption at the same time that his firm's client Boehringer is attempting to enter the human vaccine market. It can be said with confidence that, legal services provided by Shipman and Goodwin could help bring BI's human vaccines to market and result in a large revenue stream for the firm

Before we change laws that take away our rights, we should have clear answers as to whether these possible conflicts of interest are affecting this legislation.

**We should not allow people to strip us of our rights when they stand to gain monetarily!!**