

May 8, 2019

Dear Children's Committee,

I'm writing because of the recent news that there will be a public hearing on Monday, May 13th to eliminate the religious exemption for vaccinations. This is alarming, upsetting, and worrisome for me. I believe two of my children were harmed by vaccinations. I have felt ignored, sidelined and dismissed by my children's pediatrician when I brought up the subject, specially regarding to their symptoms, changes in behavior, and overall health. I felt compelled and forced to find alternate treatments for them- treatments that didn't involve steroid creams, antibiotics, and surgery that only treated the symptoms and NOT the CAUSE. I felt forced to spend out of pocket money (as non-traditional care is not covered by insurance), drive countless miles to New York and the other side of Connecticut for alternative care. Guess what? Our finances were tight, I put my career on hold, but my children began to thrive, and their health improved - further proof to me that my instinct was right and that my grit paid off. I had no support from anybody until I found people who had been and were in the same boat as I. I also doubted myself and my efforts, until I saw my children begin to heal.

I put my trust in God. He created me with the ability to be the mother He intended me to be for my children. I realized that I had to lean on Him to guide me in choosing the healthcare providers and treatments that were really going to get to the root of my children's health issues. I leaned on Him, still lean on Him, and will continue to lean on Him in all areas of my life, especially regarding my children's wellness. That is my religious exemption applied in my life.

Please, please, please, I beg you, do NOT cast your vote to eliminate the religious exemption in Connecticut. Other states eliminated that as a first step to arrive at mandated vaccinations. I believe that Oregon has recently passed a bill (HB 3063) to eliminate religious exemptions and won't even allow medical exemptions for siblings of children who have experienced severe anaphylactic reactions to vaccines. That is terrifying. Removing the religious exemption will create financial and emotional hardships for parents who simply love their children and have already sacrificed all for their well-being. It also opens the door to discrimination. Not every family can homeschool and even so, homeschoolers are under attack as well in Connecticut. If mandatory homeschooling registration is achieved, who will say the state won't want to know how many homeschoolers are or are not vaccinated? It is a slippery slope of an invasion of privacy and trampling of parents rights.

Vaccines are NOT 100% safe for EVERYONE. There are many underlying factors in a person's genetic makeup and in the vaccines themselves that make it a Russian Roulette. Please consider people like myself. I am not ill-informed or misinformed of anything. I AM my child's expert, I am the most informed in that as anyone else could be. Please don't dismiss me like my children's pediatrician has. Please trust that I really TRUST in my God regarding my children's health. My religious exemption is not a way OUT of anything, it is my way of life.

Thank you for your service and for working for ALL citizens of your Connecticut cities/townships. VOTE NO.

Sincerely,  
Nadia S. Marroquin-Collado from Danbury, CT