

Testimony

Dear members of the committee,

I would like to express my opposition against the Removal of Religious Exemptions from Childhood Vaccinations in order to attend school. My children have religious exemptions from vaccinations because I deeply and sincerely believe that God does not approve of the use of these pharmaceuticals that are created using animal products such as cells from aborted fetuses (WI-38, MRC-5), monkey kidney cells, dog cell proteins (Madin Darby Canine Kidney (MDCK)) and cow's blood derivatives (fetal bovine serum), along with attenuated or killed viruses and bacteria. I believe that if my children are naturally exposed to these viruses or bacteria, they have a God given immune system to fight them. I cannot in good conscience deliberately expose my sons to these disease causing agents with the promise that it will train their bodies to respond. No doctor or government agent can guarantee that immunity will happen or that no harm will be caused.

I cannot afford to leave my job to homeschool my children and I should not be forced to do that, I should not be forced to inject my children with a pharmaceutical product that is not in line with my religious beliefs so they can attend public school. To remove exemptions is to discriminate, isolate and cause undue burden to my family and other families like mine. Our constitution guarantees a public education without prejudice to all children.

It is common sense that a sick child should stay home until they are well and not contagious, there are measures in place already in the school system. In case of epidemics, unvaccinated or vulnerable children are to stay home for a period of time.

There's no epidemic happening in Connecticut, there's no emergency that even calls for this hearing. What I see is a small group of lawmakers with an agenda that does not serve all of Connecticut's residents with respect and fairness.

The media keeps fueling hatred against people like myself, it has created fear and division by labeling us "anti-vaxxers". By blaming us for spreading diseases we don't even have. Please be aware of this and ask yourselves if the government truly has the right to dictate what medical procedures its citizens get or don't get, no matter what "good" reason might be behind it. Because parents that cannot homeschool will be forced to either vaccinate or leave the state.

I never thought I would be fighting for this basic right to parent my children according to my faith in a country that was founded on religious freedom. Our elected officials should remember that they were elected to uphold the constitution and serve the people, not discriminate against minorities.

I ask that all lawmakers listening to this testimony, please see us as human beings, parents who follow their faith, not a Rabbi, not a Priest, not a Pope, but our own understanding of the Word of God.

Thank you for your attention and your respect,

Priscilla Escobar

