

Paid for by:

HEALTH CHOICE CONNECTICUT

Health Choice Connecticut is a nonpartisan, educational nonprofit organization that raises awareness about the health choices each individual and family have the right to make for themselves.

THE CONNECTICUT CONSTITUTION STATES:



IERE SHALL





RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION INTRODUCED

As cases of polio increased in CT, the legislature mandated the vaccine for children entering school with exceptions for a "certificate from a physician showing that this child cannot take the vaccine because of his health" or for a "person who has a religious belief against the vaccination."

Vaccines Required: 2 Doses

MEASLES VACCINE REQUIRED

1969

The 1969 act allowed the Board of Ed to require measles vaccinations for children entering school, unless the child was certified to have had measles already.

Vaccines Required: 3 Doses



1971

RUBELLA VACCINE Required

The Board of Ed required rubella vaccination for children before being permitted to attend school. Vaccines Required: 4 Doses



1978

The act added diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus vaccinations and updated the exemptions to apply to nonpublic schools.

Vaccines Required: 13 Doses

MUMPS VACCINE Required

1981

The Board of Ed required immunization against mumps.

Vaccines Required: 14 Doses

2000

174.

VARICELLA VACCINE Required

Varicella, fourth dose of diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus and third dose of polio vaccines required for school entry.

Vaccines Required: 26 Doses



2010

DPH COMMISSIONER TO DETERMINE SCHOOL SCHEDULE

The act gave the Commissioner of Public Health the ability to determine the standard of care for immunization for children based on the recommended schedules published by the CDC Advisory Committee, American Academy of Pediatrics and American Academy of Family Physicians.



2011

REQUIRED PLUS 3 BOOSTERS The Dept. of Public He

The Dept. of Public Health added hepatitis A, Tdap and meningococcal vaccines for school children, influenza and pneumococcal conjugate vaccines for children under five years old and a second dose for mumps, rubella and varicella vaccines through the regulatory process.

Vaccines Required: 35 Doses



2015

CHANGES TO THE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION STATEMENT

The act required the religious exemption statement to be officially acknowledged by a notary public, CT-licensed attorney, judge, family support magistrate, court clerk or deputy clerk, town clerk, justice of the peace or school nurse. It also changed the submission requirement to only once before initial enrollment and in seventh grade, rather than yearly.



NATIONAL CHILDHOOD **VACCINE INJURY ACT**

The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 created liability protections for vaccine manufacturers and the National Vaccine **Injury Compensation Program** (VICP) which compensates vaccine-related injury or death petitions for covered vaccines. To date, \$4.5 billion has been awarded in compensation.

HIB AND SECOND MEASLES MANDATORY

Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) and any other vaccine required by the Dept. of Health Services and a second measles vaccine before seventh grade added to the mandatory schedule. Vaccines Required: 18 Doses



IMMUNIZATION DATA RFPORTING

The act required schools to record immunization data on each student's health assessment and the Dept. of Public Health to collect that confidential data as a vearly school immunization survey.



CT IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY

The act created an ongoing registry of children which includes data about their identity and current immunization status.



DEFINED

Adequate immunization against diphtheria. pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles. mumps, rubella. haemophilus influenzae type B and hepatitis B required before enrollment in any program operated by a public or nonpublic school. instead of only when they attend school.

Vaccines Required: 21 Doses

2015

2020



McKINNEY-VENTO HOMFI FSS **ASSISTANCE ACT**

The act addressed problems with respect to the education of homeless children, including those resulting from enrollment delays caused by immunization requirements and other health records.

COVID-19 STOPS SESSION AFTER HISTORIC HEARING

The Public Health Committee raised HB-5044, a bill to repeal the religious exemption. The public hearing lasted more than 22-hours with over 3,000 people attending and close to 600 signed up to testify. The bill was voted out of committee, but never made it to the floor of the General Assembly because COVID-19 closed the Capitol as of March 12, 2020.

BILLS RAISED TO REMOVE THE RELIGIOUS **FXFMPTINN**

2021

The Public Health Committee raised two separate bills. SB-568 and HB-6423. to remove the religious exemption. Although the virtual public hearing was capped at 24-hours, 1931 registered to testify. The overwhelming majority of the 236 who spoke were in opposition of the bills.



FUTURE

240+ VACCINES IN THE PIPELINE

According to the World Health Organization, more than 240 vaccines are in development for 25 infectious diseases, Once FDA-approved and CDC-recommended for the childhood schedule. these vaccines can be added to the CT school schedule through legislative or regulatory process. If the religious exemption is removed, there will be no way to opt out of these or any currently approved vaccines.

ABOUT THE BILLS

DURING THE 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION, TWO VERY SIMILAR BILLS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED:

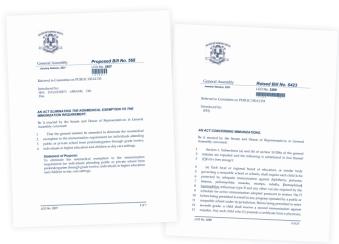
-SB-568-

An Act Eliminating Nonmedical Exemptions to the Immunization Requirement

HB-6423 -

An Act Concerning Immunizations

BOTH BILLS INTEND TO REMOVE THE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION FOR VACCINATION FOR CHILDCARE, SCHOOL AND HIGHER EDUCATION, WITH POSSIBLE GRANDFATHERING FOR A SUBSET OF CHILDREN, STUDENTS AND ADULTS.



While the intent of these bills may seem straight-forward, to remove non-vaccinated children from childcare, school and higher education, there are many implications and nuances not described in the language of the bills which are highlighted in this section.



IMPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL

The bills remove the religious exemption <u>completely</u> for ALL public and private K-12 schools for students not yet enrolled in sixth grade.

The hills:

- deny services to special education students who do not follow the vaccination schedule
- establish segregation within communities
- create an underclass of disenfranchised and undereducated children
- widen the achievement gap between those with means and those without
- isolate children from peers and other adult bonds and relationships

Note: Grandfathering can be removed completely during the amendment process



IMPLICATIONS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

The bills remove the religious exemption <u>completely</u> for all students not yet enrolled in institutions of higher education, including students currently in high school.

The bills:

- require any full-time or matriculating student, born after 1956, enrolling in higher education
 classes held on the campus of colleges, universities, higher education academies, tech and
 vocational schools and seminaries, to have proof of MMR, chickenpox and meningitis vaccines
 unless their medical provider certifies they have had a confirmed case of measles, mumps,
 rubella or chickenpox or that getting those vaccines would be contraindicated for their health
- may cause CT colleges to experience reduced admissions and suffer financial impacts
- prohibit adults from pursuing in-person higher education in CT
- force potential students to seek alternatives to college or go to out of state colleges



IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDCARE

The bills remove the religious exemption <u>completely</u> for childcare and child group care homes for children not yet enrolled in sixth grade.

The hills:

- hinder parents' ability to work or go to school
- disproportionately affect single parent or two working parent homes
- place undue hardship on families who cannot afford to stay home with their children
- isolate children and families from the community
- force working mothers to stay home



GRANDFATHERING

Grandfathering allows some students to remain in school if they currently have a religious exemption on file and are enrolled in seventh grade or higher.

The bills:

- prove there is no emergency
- segregate families as some children will be allowed to remain in school while younger siblings will be removed regardless of whether grandfathering is included for those in seventh grade or higher or if it is changed to include all children and students currently using the exemption
- currently allows a high school senior to graduate, but not enroll in college, while a college freshman could remain indefinitely
- discriminate against out of state families moving to CT including our military
- prevent families from moving to new districts for fear of losing their religious exemption on file
- do not guarantee grandfathering will allow students to use their religious exemption as they transfer or enroll in new schools



IMPLICATIONS FOR MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS

The bills require children/students who are medically exempt from one or more of the vaccines on CT's vaccination schedule to submit a new certificate, to be created by the DPH.

The bills:

- aim to expand the medical exemption beyond CDC guidelines, potentially risking the medical provider's license
- call for DPH to create a new medical certificate by October, but mandate use on passage
- require those currently using the medical exemption to get a new medical certificate from their provider, incurring costs associated with additional doctor visits
- allow those with a medical exemption to be quarantined during a public health emergency



MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The bills establish the Advisory Committee on Medically Contraindicated Vaccinations to advise the Department of Public Health on medical exemptions.

The bills:

- define the committee members, which include the commissioners of Public Health, Education and Early Childhood and medical professionals appointed by legislative leadership
- allow committee members access to children's vaccination records through CT WiZ, the state's vaccination database
- give the committee the authority to determine if the DPH should have any oversight on the usage of exemptions
- empower the committee or DPH to decline medical exemptions in the future
- permit the committee to change the criteria for granting medical exemptions

WHAT IS IMMUNIZATION NONCOMPLIANCE?

NONCOMPLIANCE refers to students with immunization in progress or no vaccination record on file.

DID YOU KNOW?

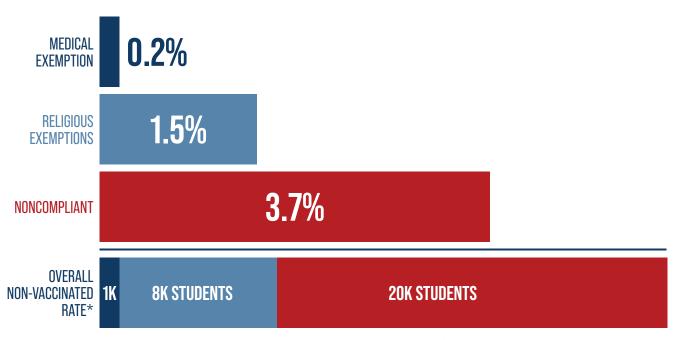
CT HAS CONSISTENTLY HIGH VACCINATION RATES,
YET NONCOMPLIANCE LEVELS
HAVE CREATED A CONCERNING OPTIC.

KINDERGARTEN IMMUNIZATION SURVEY DATA: 2019-2020

National MMR Rate **94.6**% Connecticut MMR Rate **96.2**% National Exemption* Rate **2.5**% Connecticut Exemption* Rate **2.5**%

*An exemption from at least one vaccination

CT DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH K-12 IMMUNIZATION SURVEY DATA: 2019-2020



*THE NONCOMPLIANT STUDENTS CONTRIBUTE TO THE OVERALL NON-VACCINATED RATE.

THE DPH DATA SHOWS THAT NONCOMPLIANCE INCREASES THE OVERALL NON-VACCINATED RATE MORE THAN RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS.

• • •

Removing the religious exemptions will artificially inflate school vaccination rates, but it will not increase the number of children being vaccinated.

SOLUTIONS

ADDRESS NONCOMPLIANCE

- Provide school nurses with the resources and training they need to better track noncompliance.
- Allow school nurses to update CT WiZ records to ensure they are complete and accurate.
- Create a new position responsible for student vaccination records to remove this task from overburdened school nurses or for schools without a nurse.

ADDRESS THE CHECKPOINT DISCREPANCY

- Change the cut-off date from December 31, the latest in the country, to the beginning of the school year so that ages and grades better align with the CDC schedule.
- Move the kindergarten checkpoint to second grade when all students are 7 years old to match the CDC's recommended vaccination window.
- Adjust the checkpoints to allow for the varying ages of children in a particular grade.
 For example, four year old kindergarten students have different vaccination requirements than five year old kindergarten students.
- Remove the flu shot requirement for four year olds who are turning five by December 31 in kindergarten. Two-thirds of prekindergarten exemptions were for the flu shot only, per 2017-2018 data.

ADDRESS DATA INCONSISTENCY

- Create an electronic form to consistently collect immunization survey data from each school.
- Add additional data sets in the school survey results for students who have immunizations in progress or who have no records on file, rather than just exemptions.
- Release the overall number and rate of exemptions and noncompliant for all grades annually.
- Include non-reporting schools instead of removing them from the survey results for consistency.
- Report prekindergarten results separately from kindergarten.

ADDRESS PARENT EDUCATION

- Allow doctors adequate time to have a dialogue with families about vaccinations including asking questions, addressing concerns, reviewing the schedule and providing all benefits and risks of each vaccine.
- Provide community-based educational sessions open to all families.
- Provide virtual and in-person vaccine Q&A with a varied doctor panel.

ADDRESS SAFETY CONCERNS

- Ease safety concerns by evaluating the vaccine testing process and compare to other drugs.
- Provide families with studies that were used to determine that vaccines are safe.
- Offer roundtable discussions with families to determine additional safety concerns.

24-HOURS OF TESTIMONY

AT THE CAPPED 24-HOUR VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR SB-568 AND HB-6423, OVER 236 PEOPLE WERE ABLE TO TESTIFY WITH ONLY 10 PEOPLE IN SUPPORT OF THE BILLS.

1,931 PEOPLE SIGNED UP TO TESTIFY, LEAVING NEARLY 1,500 UNHEARD.

HERE ARE SOME QUOTES FROM THE MOST POWERFUL TESTIMONIES, AS WELL AS DATA AND STATISTICS TO SUPPORT THEIR STATEMENTS.



mothers, fathers, children, religious leaders, activists, nurses, doctors.

WE PRESENTED MEDICAL CONCERNS. WE PRESENTED RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS.

WE TOLD YOU IT'S NEARLY **IMPOSSIBLE** TO GET MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS. WE PRESENTED CHILDREN WITH ADVERSE EFFECTS.

We cried.

WE HAVE SUBMITTED PETITIONS WITH OVER 15,000 SIGNATURES.

WE HAVE MET WITH MANY OF YOU AND TRIED WITHOUT SUCCESS TO MEET WITH THE REST. WE HAVE WRITTEN LETTERS AND COUNTLESS EMAILS.

WE HAVE MADE OUR VOICES HEARD, BUT STILL YOU PERSIST WITH THIS DISCRIMINATORY LEGISLATION.

ERICA SMITH



DATA

ACCURATE DATA IS ESSENTIAL TO CREATING MEANINGFUL POLICY.

DOES THE DATA SUPPORT THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION?

CDC KINDERGARTEN VACCINATION ASSESSMENT: 2019–2020 SCHOOL YEAR



CT DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH KINDERGARTEN IMMUNIZATION SURVEY DATA



The percentage of kindergarten students with a religious exemption decreased by 0.2% compared with last year, and is now 2.3%. The percentage of kindergarten students with a medical exemption remains fairly constant, at 0.2% in 2019-2020, compared with 0.3% during previous years.



THAT THE NUMBERS THAT I'VE SEEN FROM YOUR SCHOOL STUDY DO NOT CONSTITUTE AN EMERGENCY.



- DR. JACK ROSS, MD
INFECTIOUS DISEASE MEDICINE

THE CT SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION SURVEY ONLY TRACKS EXEMPTIONS BY SCHOOL AND DOES NOT SHOW OVERALL IMMUNIZATION RATES OR THE NONCOMPLIANT CATEGORY.

THIS PUTS AN EMPHASIS ON OVERALL EXEMPTIONS RATHER THAN GIVING AN ACCURATE REPORT OF VACCINATION RATES IN CT SCHOOLS.

VACCINATED

IN COMPLIANCE

STUDENTS WITH A **MEDICAL EXEMPTION**

STUDENTS WITH A **RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION**

NONCOMPLIANT

STUDENTS WITH IMMUNIZATION IN PROGRESS

STUDENTS WITH NO VACCINATION RECORD ON FILE

THE ONLY DATA SETS
THAT WE SEE IN THE
SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION DATA ARE
THE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS AND
THE MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS.

ANYTHING ELSE IS JUST A DISCREPANCY.

THERE SHOULD BE A DATA SET FOR

THE CHILDREN IN

PROGRESS SCHEDULE

AND THE NONCOMPLIANT

BECAUSE THAT IS WHERE WE ARE SEEING THE BIGGEST GAPS IN THIS DATA.

KATHERINE KRAEMER

SIGNATORY, PETITIONS

VACCINE ADVERSE EVENT REPORTING SYSTEM

VAERS HAS PAID OUT MORE THAN \$4.5 BILLION IN COMPENSATION SINCE 1988

FEWER THAN 1/0
OF VACCINE ADVERSE EVENTS
ARE REPORTED.

HARVARD PILGRIM HEALTH CARE



THROUGHOUT MY ENTIRE CAREER, I HAVE NEVER ONCE WITNESSED ANY HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL DISCUSS LET ALONE REPORT A VACCINE REACTION TO VAERS.

77

- CT PEDIATRIC NURSE

SCHOOL

SCHOOLS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATING CHILDREN AND ADULTS, BUT THEY ALSO OFFER COMMUNITY, SOCIALIZATION, A SAFE HAVEN AND A DEPENDABLE MEAL FOR THOSE IN NEED. REMOVING THE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION WILL ELIMINATE THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT A GOOD EDUCATION PROVIDES AND PERMANENTLY CHANGE THE TRAJECTORY OF THESE LIVES.



WHEN ASKED ABOUT INACCURACIES IN THE SCHOOL VACCINATION SURVEY DATA:

THERE'S NO ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE EXPERIENCE OR THE KNOWLEDGE THAT A SCHOOL NURSE HAS.

THE SCHOOL NURSES COVER MULTIPLE SCHOOLS. SOME OF THEM HAVE 1,300 TO 2,000 STUDENTS.

SO YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY - AS MUCH AS YOU WANT TO - DO A GOOD JOB.

YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY DO THAT BECAUSE RECORD-KEEPING ISN'T THE ONLY THING, YOU KNOW, WE HAVE TO KEEP THE KIDS SAFE, IF THEY COME IN SICK OR THEY COME IN HURT.

SO I WOULD SAY (THE DATA) IS AS ACCURATE AS THE SCHOOL NURSES IN CT CAN GIVE YOU, **BUT IT'S PROBABLY NOT** AS ACCURATE AS YOU WOULD WANT.

DONNA KOSIOROWSKI, RN MS NCSN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES OF CT





SPECIAL EDUCATION

IF THE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION IS REPEALED, STUDENTS WITH IDENTIFIED DISABILITIES WILL LOSE THEIR SPECIALIZED EDUCATION, ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES THAT ENSURE THEIR ACADEMIC AND FUTURE SUCCESS.



REMOTE LEARNING IS **NOT APPROPRIATE** FOR ANYONE IN SPECIAL FINICATION MY SON NEEDS 11 CERTIFIED THERAPISTS, TEACHERS AND PARAPROFESSIONALS. I WOULD LOSE **EVERY SINGLE SERVICE AND THERAPY**

HEATHER GRAVELINE

THE AND LITTLIZED AND LEP OF CT STUDENTS IN 2019

CT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



WHO REQUIRE 504s OR IEPs

WILL NO LONGER RECEIVE
THE SUPPORT THEY ARE
LEGALLY AFFORDED UNDER

THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT.

UNDER THESE BILLS, THESE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND NEEDS ARE NO LONGER MET.

77

MEAGAN GALLO

HIGHER EDUCATION

CT COLLEGES WILL BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THIS LEGISLATION. COLLEGES WILL SEE A DECLINE IN ADMISSIONS DUE TO CHILDREN AND ADULT LEARNERS CHOOSING OUT-OF-STATE INSTITUTIONS OR SKIPPING HIGHER EDUCATION ALTOGETHER.



THE STUDENTS I TEACH ARE TRYING TO GET TWO-YEAR DEGREES, ASSOCIATES. SO, IF THEY'RE GRANDFATHERED IN NOW, AT THEIR CURRENT COMMUNITY COLLEGE...

WHEN THEY TRANSFER THEIR CREDITS,
THEY HAVE TO APPLY AS NEW STUDENT TO THAT SCHOOL.

IF THERE IS GOING TO BE A GRANDFATHER CLAUSE,
IT SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT [IT] ENABLES
THE STUDENT TO TRANSFER NOT ONLY THEIR CREDITS,

BUT ALSO TRANSFER THEIR RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION

SO THAT THEY CAN GO ON AND GET THE

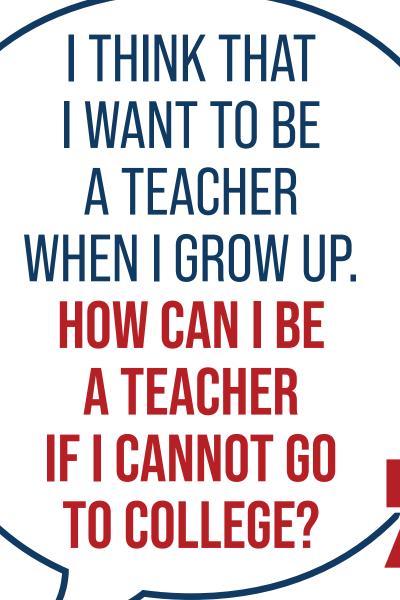
FOUR-YEAR DEGREE.

- ROBERT PIAZZA COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROFESSOR



COLLEGE GRADUATES WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE TYPICALLY EARN ORE THAN THOSE WITH ONLY A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



9 YEARS OLD

CHILDCARE

FAMILIES RELY ON CHILDCARE. REMOVING THE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION WOULD CAUSE MANY PARENTS TO LEAVE THEIR JOBS OR CONTINUING EDUCATION. IT WOULD CAUSE FINANCIAL DISTRESS FOR MANY CT FAMILIES AND DECREASE CHILDCARE ENROLLMENT CAUSING HARDSHIP FOR MANY SMALL BUSINESSES.



THIS BILL AFFECTS ME IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.
MY WIFE AND I BOTH WORK FULL TIME.
DAYCARE WILL NOT BE AN OPTION IF THIS BILL PASSES.

THEREFORE, ONE OF US WILL HAVE TO QUIT OUR JOB TO TAKE CARE OF OUR CHILD.

THIS WILL PUT A HUGE STRAIN ON US NOT ONLY FINANCIALLY, BUT MENTALLY.

DO YOU KNOW HOW IT MAKES ME FEEL TO KNOW
THAT MY UNBORN CHILD WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HAVE
THE SAME ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND HIGH
SCHOOL EXPERIENCES THAT I HAD?

MICHAEL CAVALIERE

GRAND-FATHERING

GRANDFATHERING CREATES EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITY WITHIN THE FAMILY UNIT AND FURTHER PROVES THERE IS NO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY THAT WARRANTS THE REMOVAL OF THE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION.

BY USING THE GRANDFATHER LANGUAGE YOUR BILL PROVES THERE IS NO CRISIS OR EMERGENCY.

AS ONE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE STATED, 'GRANDFATHERING IS WONDERFUL POLITICS, BUT TERRIBLE POLICY.'

- KEITH MIRANTE BUSINESS OWNER

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

THE CT CONSTITUTION DEFINES RELIGION AS AN INDIVIDUAL CREED, NOT AN ORGANIZED RELIGION. CT CITIZENS HAVE THE RIGHT TO PRACTICE THEIR OWN RELIGIOUS BELIEFS WITHOUT FEAR OF HARM OR PERSECUTION.

YOU'RE FORCING FREE CITIZENS TO BECOME RELIGIOUS REFUGEES

IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES,
RUNNING FROM THEIR HOMES
AND WELL-ESTABLISHED LIVES
AT AN EVEN FASTER RATE
THAN PEOPLE ARE
ALREADY LEAVING
THIS EXPENSIVE STATE.

JENNIFER MIRANDA

FAITH IS PERSONAL AND MYSTERIOUS AND INDIVIDUALISTIC. RELIGION IS MERELY THE LANGUAGE MADE UP OF SYMBOLS AND METAPHORS THAT ONE CAN USE TO EXPRESS ONE'S FAITH. **NO ONE CAN PROVE OR DISPROVE** A PERSON'S BELIEF **ANY MORE THAN ANYONE CAN** PROVE OR DISPROVE LOVE.



CERTAIN LEGISLATORS CLAIM THAT
NO ORGANIZED RELIGION IS ANTI-VACCINE,
BUT THIS ARGUMENT IS IRRELEVANT BECAUSE
OUR CONNECTICUT CONSTITUTION
DOES NOT REQUIRE PERSONALLY HELD
RELIGIOUS BELIEFS TO BE PART OF
AN ORGANIZED RELIGION.

LAURA DIDOMINZIO



ANIMALS ARE USED IN ALL STAGES OF RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND QUALITY CONTROL OF VACCINES.

IN PARTICULAR CONSUMES AN ESTIMATED 2.5 INILLION ANIMALS EVERY YEAR PETA



I'M HERE AS A **VEGAN CATHOLIC**, ASKING YOU TO PLEASE **OPPOSE SENATE BILL 568 AND HOUSE BILL 6423.**

MY ENTIRE FAMILY, INCLUDING MY HUSBAND, DAUGHTER, BROTHER, AND PARENTS ARE VEGAN, AND

DO NOT BELIEVE IN CONSUMING ANIMAL PRODUCTS OF ANY KIND.

THIS INCLUDES ANIMAL PRODUCTS AND ABORTED FETAL CELLS

CONTAINED IN SOME VACCINES.



- STEPHANIE TORNATORE

MEDICAL MISTRUST

ELIMINATING THE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION WILL IMPEDE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE AND HINDER THE DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP. IT WILL NOT INCREASE VACCINATION RATES AMONG FAMILIES HOLDING SINCERE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.



A BILL THAT MAINLY SAID THAT

A PARENT MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN
THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION VERSUS
THEIR FUNDAMENTAL. RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

WILL LIKELY NOT SOLVE THIS ISSUE OF MISTRUST

BUT FURTHER EXACERBATE IT, RESULTING IN SERIOUS COGNITIVE DISSONANCE FOR THE PARENTS.

- PERPETUAL TAYLOR - FIRST YEAR UCONN MEDICAL STUDENT



HEALTH.

ISOLATION IS KNOWN TO CAUSE A DECLINE IN MENTAL HEALTH.
REMOVING THE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION INTENTIONALLY
ISOLATES CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS THAT THIS WOULD HAVE ON THE MENTAL HEALTH OF OUR CHILDREN?

RECENTLY, I SPOKE TO A PSYCHOLOGIST AT CCMC WHO HAS SAID

THEY HAVE BEEN INUNDATED WITH ADOLESCENT

MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES, AND SHE

ANTICIPATES THAT IT'S ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE.

IF THIS BILL PASSES,
WE ARE ENSURING
A NEW PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS.

= MARY DAMATO

COVID LOCKDOWN MEASURES AND REMOTE LEARNING

HAVE INCREASED
MENTAL HEALTH
RELATED EMERGENCY
VISITS BY

24%-31%

FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

CDC MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLY REPORT

I see no positives resulting from this policy.

AFTER WITNESSING FIRST HAND WHAT HYBRID AND FULL REMOTE LEARNING HAS DONE TO THE MENTAL WELL BEING OF

MY STUDENTS DURING THIS TIME OF COVID HAS BEEN BOTH CONCERNING TO ME AS AN EDUCATOR AND AS A PARENT.

SEPARATION FROM PEERS, SEPARATION FROM DAILY DIRECT CONTACT WITH QUALIFIED TEACHERS HAS PROVEN DISASTROUS DURING THESE DAYS OF COVID AND THE TEACHING METHOD.

REMOVING THE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION WOULD MEAN FURTHER SEPARATION FOR THESE CHILDREN AND THIS IS JUST NOT EQUITABLE.

Janet Flowers

IN THE STANDARY FAMILIES

LEGISLATION TO REPEAL THE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION WILL DETER MILITARY FAMILIES FROM BEING STATIONED IN CONNECTICUT.



THESE BILLS ALSO TOTALLY IGNORE, OR DON'T ADDRESS IN ANY WAY, THE MILITARY FAMILIES WHO COME TO THIS STATE ON ORDERS.

SOME PEOPLE MIGHT NOT BE IN A PART OF THE STATE
WHERE THEY THINK ABOUT THEM MUCH,
BUT THERE ARE MANY MILITARY FAMILIES AND PEOPLE,
AND MILITARY CONTRACTORS HERE IN CONNECTICUT.

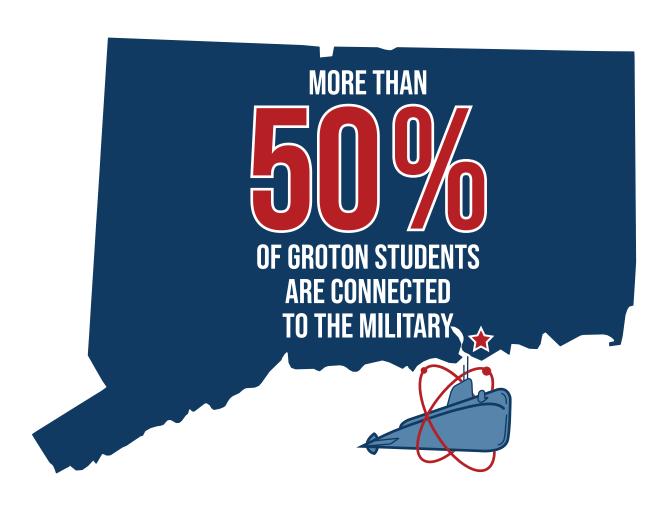
SOME OF THESE FAMILIES HAVE EXEMPTIONS IN OTHER STATES.

FORCE SEPARATE FAMILIES, SO CHILDREN CAN CONTINUE TO RECEIVE AN EDUCATION.

CHRISTINE GOLD

MILITARY SPOUSE & MOTHER





HOW WILL THESE BILLS AFFECT MILITARY FAMILIES LIVING IN CT?

PLEASE KEEP CT SAFE FOR MILITARY FAMILIES MANY DO NOT HAVE A CHOICE WHEN THEY MOVE HERE. THEY MOVE HERE ON MILITARY ORDERS AND THEY SHOULD NOT BE FORCED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND THEIR CHILD HAVING A PUBLIC EDUCATION.

VETERAN SPOUSE & MOTHER

55

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE WILL SEE THE BIGGEST GENDER DISPARITY FROM THE REPEAL OF THE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION. WOMEN WILL BE FORCED TO QUIT THEIR JOBS TO STAY HOME WITH CHILDREN REMOVED FROM SCHOOL AND CHILDCARE. OVER THREE QUARTERS OF WORKING WOMEN HAVE CHILDREN UNDER 18.

HA Body, My Choice

NOT APPLY TO VACCINES?
WHY DO WE TRUST WOMEN,
BUT NOT IF THEY DECLINE A VACCINE?

PRO-CHOICE MEANS RESPECTING ALL CHOICES.

IF WE ONLY EXTEND THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE TO THOSE CHOICES THAT WE APPROVE OF, WE AREN'T ACTUALLY PRO-CHOICE.

- MADDALENA CIRIGNOTTA



A CENTURY AFTER WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, WE ARE OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE UNTIL THEY ARE OF AGE TO VOTE THEMSELVES. I FIND IT INTERESTING THAT **WOMEN'S RIGHTS** HAVE THE SUPPORT FROM THE MAJORITY OF THE LEGISLATURE WHEN SHE **CHOOSES NOT TO BE A MOTHER**. NOW THE MAJORITY OF THE LEGISLATURE CAN VOTE TO DISMANTLE A WOMAN'S RIGHTS AFTER SHE IS ALREADY A MOTHER.

> MARCELLA KUROWSKI

I AM A HIGHLY PROGRESSIVE FEMINIST,

AND I'M RAISING MY THREE CHILDREN
TO USE THEIR VOICES
TO ADVOCATE FOR THEMSELVES.
I HAVE ALWAYS INSTILLED IN THEM
THAT OTHERS MAY NOT DO THINGS

THAT OTHERS MAY NOT DO THINGS TO THEIR BODIES WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT,

AND MY CONSENT UNTIL THEY NO LONGER NEED MY ADVOCACY...

I AM MORE INVESTED IN THEIR WELL BEING THAN ANYONE ON THIS EARTH.

- MADDALENA CIRIGNOTTA

REGRESSIVE LEGISLATION

LEGISLATION TO REPEAL THE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION IS REGRESSIVE POLICY WHICH WILL INITIATE SEGREGATION AND DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS A MINORITY POPULATION WITH SINCERELY HELD RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

Separate is not equal.

THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT CANNOT SAY IN ONE BREATH THAT ALL CHILDREN DESERVE AN EDUCATION AND THEN IN THE NEXT BREATH SAY THAT WE SHOULD JUST HOMESCHOOL.

JESSE GLEASON •



MY PARENTS PREPARED ME FOR A WORLD OF BIGOTRY.

MY FATHER WENT TO SEGREGATED SCHOOLS.

LET THAT SINK IN. THE FIRST TIME HE SAT IN CLASS
WITH WHITE PEOPLE WAS IN COLLEGE.

THAT WAS ONLY ONE AND A HALF GENERATIONS AGO.

AND HERE WE ARE ON THE VERGE OF INSTITUTING SEGREGATION YET AGAIN.

YEAH, THE PARAMETERS ARE DIFFERENT,
THE JUSTIFICATION IS DIFFERENT.
IT'S WRAPPED IN A DIFFERENT PACKAGE,
BUT THE SMELL OF BIGOTRY STINKS THE SAME.

ERICA SMITH



THE TARGETING OF SUCH A SMALL SUBGROUP SEEMS TO

BE A SUBTLE FORM OF RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

AND VIOLATION OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND EQUAL PROTECTION CLAUSE OF THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT.

PERPETUAL TAYLOR

