

Respected Members of the Public Health Committee,

I am opposing HB-5044. I am very concerned about the possibility of removing vaccine exemptions from the state of CT. I am a teacher in a poverty district, located in West Haven, CT. All students in my school receive free school lunches, and are part of low-SES families. It is unfair to make decisions for a transient population, where students travel between many different states and have a variety of religious and medical reasons not to vaccinate with the 69 'required' shots before allowing these students to be entered into our school system.

Also, I have noticed that the Flu Vaccine was required for all students entering public school this year. However, as a first-grade teacher, I have seen a very large number of students out sick with the flu. The toxic elements in these shots, coupled with the fact that they do not have a very high success rate, makes a strong case for the state to consider alternate methods of helping parents and children rather than taking away basic human rights and freedoms.

I am also opposed to some of the vaccines myself. As a child I was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, just one short month after receiving the MMR-booster shot on my 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. Normally, this would not be a large correlation other than the fact that my first cousin had also just acquired the Type-1 diabetes disease as well, only one short month after her own booster shot at the age of 5. My own mother found it strange that we

both ended up with this chronic condition only a month after the vaccine.

When I walked into the doctor's office to give my own child her vaccinations, I noticed, on the bottom of the pamphlet from the CDC, that the same shot had a 'possible side-effect' of... you guessed it: Type-1 Diabetes. This has caused me to have reservations about the safety and integrity of these vaccines, for all children. There might be some who have genetic conditions or exceptions to the rules. These children should definitely NOT be excluded from a public, guaranteed education!.

For these reasons, as well as the fact that our state triumphs and progresses best with personal freedoms and liberties, I am choosing to oppose this proposed bill. We are, in fact, called the Constitution State and it is an election year, as well. Please support our right to make choices for our own children, and not allow the government, states, or any other authority replace parental knowledge about our own children.

Sincerely,

Robyn Anderson  
Elementary teacher  
West Haven, CT