

CPRC (CT Parental Rights Coalition)  
HB 7059, Position Statement  
For Immediate Release: February 17, 2017  
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**CPRC to CT Residents**  
**Call to Action in Opposition of HB 7059**

**HB 7059 an Act Concerning Immunization Education**

HB 7059 seeks to mandate state classes to parents declining vaccinations for their children based on religious tenets

HB 7059 is an unconstitutional restraint of the First Amendment right to Freedom of Religion. This right is supported by the Establishment Clause and Free Exercise Clause which reinforce the separation of church and state, protect religious action, and prohibit the creation of law that would impede the exercise of religion. HB 7059 represents a “State Action Requirement” in violation of the First Amendment right to Freedom of Religion and the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Parents are the primary authority over religious and medical decisions for their children without penalty or state hindrance. The US Supreme Court consistently upholds the Parental Rights Doctrine; *“the fundamental interest of parents, as contrasted with that of the State, to guide the religious future and education of their children...This primary role of the parents in the upbringing of their children is now established beyond debate as an enduring American tradition.”*<sup>1</sup> HB 7059 is in violation of the Supreme Court’s Parental Rights Doctrine.

**CPRC seeks to uphold the fundamental rights of parents to direct the upbringing of their children, as protected by the US Constitution and the US Supreme Court. Therefore, we oppose HB 7059 and call on CT residents to take action to maintain their rights. Please join us in urging the Joint Committee on Children to “kill the bill”. Residents should submit written testimony by Monday 2/20/17 and give oral testimony at the public hearing on Tuesday, 2/21/17.**

*CPRC is the union of 11 citizen groups throughout CT, representing approximately 40,000 CT residents. The Coalition has worked with legislators by submitting research, evidence and expert counsel. We are committed to the safety of children and the rights of parents.*

1) Supreme Court, *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205 (1972)