

February 14, 2024  
11:15am

Dear Committee,

I am writing in opposition to SF610 and urge you to vote NO on this bill. As a nurse, I can see that this bill completely violates medical ethics because it causes coercion. Parents will not be able to make the best decisions for their individual family members because this bill takes away informed consent. Informed consent, the knowledge of potential risks and the ability to refuse any medical treatment, is destroyed by forcing parents to vaccinate their children just to meet "requirements" for daycare. Parents will not think about whether vaccinations are helpful or necessary, but they will blindly comply with what needs to be done to get their child into a daycare setting. That is coercion and that is not allowed with medical ethics.

Furthermore, this bill violates the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. Religious freedom and exercise/expression are protected by the First Amendment. Our values and religious beliefs are guided by our consciences. You cannot separate one's conscience and religious beliefs; they are like one entity. If you deny conscientious objections, then you are also denying someone's religious beliefs and that violates the First Amendment.

Additionally, this bill takes away parental rights. Parents will not think about what is best for their child, but will be checking off boxes to enter daycare and that means that institutions are dictating what happens to the child instead of the parents. That is horrific. It is our duty to make health decisions for our children, not the state. The state should be supporting us as parents, not taking our place!

Lastly, you cannot force all children to receive all vaccinations without any exceptions because there is risk involved. Vaccinations are not all benign and they can cause irreversible harm; that is why VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) was created. VAERS tracks injuries and it exists because injuries that happen need to be analyzed. The reason, whether conscientious/religious or medical, for an exemption to vaccines should not matter. **Parents** have the **right** to decide what medical treatments are done to **their** children and they **must be free** to make that decision **without** any coercion or negative repercussions.

Sincerely,  
Karin Charron  
Rochester, MN