

Senate Health and Human Services Committee Members,,

As a mother of two and longtime Minnesota resident, I'm writing to OPPOSE SF610. This discriminatory bill will force those who can't afford to opt out of daycare because they don't want to or don't need to get every vaccine (74 on the current CDC schedule) in order to go to daycare.

For my family I would personally just hire a nanny as we did for my second child, but my first child did attend a daycare that ACCEPTED Minnesota's Conscientious Exemption to Vaccines. Your bill would discriminate against those who can't afford a nanny or to have a parent stay home.

Minnesota law ALREADY requires parents to submit up to date vaccine records, a medical exemption signed by a doctor or a notarized conscientious exemption for EVERY child upon enrollment in daycare (as well as public, charter, private or homeschool). Conscientious exemptions encompass a family's religious or conscientious beliefs and are utilized when their beliefs prevent them from accepting one or more vaccine doses. It allows space for public health recommendations while respecting the diverse population and individual autonomy of our citizens.

The Constitution of the State of Minnesota:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/constitution/#:~:text=The%20right%20of%20every%20man,o f%20or%20interference%20with%20the>

Already protects our freedom on conscience.

Sec. 16. Freedom of conscience; no preference to be given to any religious establishment or mode of worship. The enumeration of rights in this constitution shall not deny or impair others retained by and inherent in the people. The right of every man to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience shall never be infringed; nor shall any man be compelled to attend, erect or support any place of worship, or to maintain any religious or ecclesiastical ministry, against his consent; nor shall any control of or interference with the rights of conscience be permitted, or any preference be given by law to any religious establishment or mode of worship.

In a state where diversity is celebrated, religious freedom stands as a cornerstone of individual liberties. It is a fundamental human right that allows citizens to practice their beliefs without fear of discrimination or persecution.

Please OPPOSE SF610.

Thank you,
Kristin Heinmets
St. Paul, MN