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Anna Burke
Health and Human Services Committee
Room 1100 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St Paul, MN

RE: Senate Bill SF610

Dear Health and Human Services Committee Members,

I am a working mother of three children and live in rural Minnesota. My husband and I came to Minnesota and made a decision to raise our family here. We have made a decision based on our faith that vaccinating our children is something that directly contradicts God's design for our lives. There are many other families in Minnesota that have made similar decisions for their families. As a result of our very personal decision, we discovered that we would be unable to find adequate child care for our children. We looked into placing our children in day care for a few days a week so that we could both work. We were turned away from multiple facilities because of our faith-led decision to withhold vaccinations from our children. We are both college-educated, productive members of society, and had a sincere desire to be gainfully employed and provide for our family. We were turned down for day"= care solely on the basis of our faith-led decision. As a result, we were unable to work more than part-time, with alternating schedules, so that we could share the responsibility of caring for the children.

I sincerely believe that the authors of this Bill think that it will protect children from communicable diseases, and that they are acting in the best interests of the people of Minnesota. I would like to present a differing view. Because of the discrimination that we received, we were unable to be gainfully employed, and were therefore still needing to rely on Minnesota HHS funding for health care, food assistance, etc. As a result of this inability to receive adequate childcare, we were burdening the system further financially, even though we had a sincere desire to be independent.

I am a Registered Nurse and my husband is a college educated self-employed contractor. We do not hold our faith lightly, or our decision to not vaccinate our children. It is a decision that is prayerfully made, and in our belief, is the best decision for our family. I do not feel that this decision should cost us financial independence. Discrimination is already happening in the daycare system. This Bill will justify that discrimination and ensure that other families that are truly wanting to make a conscientious decision for their children's well-being, will be held back from achieving true financial independence. None of us really want to rely on others for basic necessities. This Bill will ensure that any family that makes a decision against vaccination based on a sincerely held belief, will be forced to make a decision to choose between financial independence and that belief.

Instead of passing Legislation to allow for systematic discrimination of children who are not vaccinated, I propose that you protect these same people that are seeking to work, and make it a crime TO discriminate against them based on a sincerely held belief. Our children should not suffer because of the parents educated, faith-led decisions, and the State should not allow this suffering based on the 'greatest good for the greatest number'. We are better than that. I urge you to consider the weight of

this decision and the burden you are placing on families that are truly making a sound decision for their families.

Thank you for your time and for considering both sides of this issue.

Sincerely,
Megan Sims