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LD 174

LD 174 and LD 727

This opinion is my own and not a reflection of the views of any group for which I am a member.

Vaccines are a cornerstone of public health, protecting not only individual children but entire communities from preventable diseases. When exemptions increase, so do outbreaks of measles, whooping cough, and other serious illnesses. The ongoing measles outbreaks in this country are primarily driven by unvaccinated children and have already resulted in two fatalities.

No major religion explicitly prohibits vaccination therefore all religious exemption are philosophical in nature. Philosophical objections should not outweigh scientific consensus and public safety. Personal beliefs, however sincerely held, do not justify endangering others, particularly in schools where diseases spread rapidly. Permitting only medical exemptions is a necessary step to safeguard public health, prevent outbreaks, and protect the most vulnerable among us.

I respectfully ask this committee to prioritize the health of all children by rejecting this bill.