

FOR-US
Freedom Of Religion -
United Solutions

April 28, 2021

Dear Governor Lamont,

The non-profit organization, Freedom Of Religion – United Solutions (FOR-US) represents people of **ALL faiths** who oppose the removal of religious vaccine exemptions from vaccine mandate policy. As the FOR-US executive director, I can assure you that there ARE religious reasons why one would oppose some, or all, vaccines.

Christian Faith: The Bible teaches us that ALL human life is sacred. The use of human aborted fetuses in the testing and manufacturing of vaccines goes directly against this principal. Additionally, under the rule of God, one must not desecrate the holiest of temples, the human body.

Leviticus 19:28 - Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Jewish Faith: The Torah explicitly commands Jews to guard their lives exceedingly, and as such, concerns to ensure safety are part and parcel of religious law, NOT independent of religious law. The Torah states, “And you shall guard your life exceedingly,” and, “Just take care of yourself and guard your life exceedingly.” According to the general consensus of the classic formulators of Jewish law (halachah), these verses command one to guard their health and their life. While some Jews view vaccines as one way to guard their life, many other Jews, view “guarding their life exceedingly” as avoiding vaccines due to potential risks of injury and/or death (stated on both the CDC website and package inserts).

Muslim Faith: In 2018 a fatwa was issued by the Indonesia Ullema Council Fatwa Commission concerning the use of vaccines that utilize the elements of pigs and their derivatives as unclean. This fatwa clearly states that the use of any vaccine which contains ingredients derived from pig/porcine is considered *haram* (unclean and forbidden in the Muslim faith). Additionally, Raza Academy, a body of Indian Sufi Muslims that promotes Islamic philosophies via publications and research, have recently written to the World Health Organization expressing their concerns over the use of ingredients derived from pigs. Today, many of our current vaccines contain gelatin made from pig, used as a stabilizer, thus making them *haram*, and a deep concern to those of Muslim faith who view this common ingredient as forbidden.

Buddhist Faith: The first of the Ten Buddhist Precepts instructs “not taking life.” The manufacturing of vaccines involves the killing of animals and the use of aborted fetuses for testing and ingredient purposes, which is in direct violation of Buddhist principals, thus causing many Buddhists to forgo vaccination.

Hindu Faith: Hindu scripture teaches *ahimsa*, meaning do no harm to oneself, or others, including animals. Vaccines derived from animals and human aborted fetuses are in direct violation of the Hindu

principal *ahimsa*. Additionally, All India Hindu Mahasabha President Swami Chakrapani has written to President Ram Nath Kovind regarding concerns of ingredients derived from cows in vaccines. Chakrapani stated in his letter that cow's blood or any such substance used in vaccines, "hurts the spirit of Hindu Sanatan Dharma." Being that bovine (cow) serum is a common ingredient in many vaccines, Hindu's are often reluctant to inoculate their children or themselves.

The Constitution of the United States of America specifically protects the religious freedom of the people. Under Federal Laws, "religious practices" are defined by law to include moral or ethical beliefs about what is right and wrong that are sincerely held with the strength of traditional views. - 29 C.F.R. §1605.1

Additionally, Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibits the denial of educational opportunities based on race, color, **religion**, or national origin. Additionally, if any of the schools in Connecticut have a library and deny a student access due to being unvaccinated for religious reasons, SB568 and HB 6423 will be in violation of Title III of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Please consider that SB568 and HB 6423 is a direct violation of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and a violation of Title III and Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and thus an **infringement on religious freedom and an act of discrimination**. I ask that you please consider the religious practices and beliefs of **ALL faiths** when making your decision to veto these bills.

Thank you for holding true to the United States Constitution and America's core values.

God Bless,
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FOR-US Coalition Faith Leaders (support)

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Pastor Robert Schuller
Pastor Tom Mahairas
Pastor Walter Sotelo
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