

Legislative Committee on Education Meeting on 02/20/2020

Public comment:

My name is Amanda Cassell. I moved to Nevada with my husband and two children last September. I moved here from California, where I had lived for 14 years, to escape the medical tyranny and religious persecution that is occurring there. In California, my children were denied a public education because I would not subject them to a medical procedure with a pharmaceutical product that I do not agree with. All pharmaceutical products have a risk of side effects for some people. Vaccines are no different! Where there is risk, there must be choice.

I realize that there are currently no bills proposed to remove the religious exemption in this state, but as I see religious exemptions removed in multiple states around the country, or bills that propose the removal of them, I feel the need to make our voices heard. I know my presence is probably annoying to many of you, as I'm talking about an issue that is not on the agenda, but hopefully you will remember my words as you consider whether to propose such bills in the next legislative session. Yesterday and today I watched hours of testimony of citizens in Connecticut voicing their opposition to the removal of religious exemptions in their state. The public comment was 21 hours long with hundreds of people speaking out, and the overwhelming majority of people were against the bill.

My only option to send my child to school in September was to use a religious exemption. I do not feel it is right that I need to disclose my religious beliefs in order to be allowed to put my child in the school that my taxes pay for. I would like to see an expansion of exemptions to include personal belief or philosophical exemptions, or better yet, remove all vaccine mandates like the state of South Dakota is proposing with House Bill 1235.

I am here today because I want to make sure we don't go down the same path that California did. We love Nevada, and our family is thriving here. My 6 year old son loves first grade and is excelling in reading and math and has made many friends. My daughter is so excited to start Kindergarten next year and to make new friends of her own. Please don't take those experiences away from them.