

February 5, 2025

SB19

Proponent

In Person

Lindsey Berning

Chairwoman Gossage and Members of the Committee,

I stand before you today not as a paid lobbyist, but as a mom. I support SB19 because it protects my freedom, my beliefs, and my baby girl.

Under the current statutes regarding immunization requirements and exemptions, I would not be able to send my daughter to school because I am not “an adherent of a religious denomination whose religious teachings are opposed to such tests or inoculations,” even though I believe it would be morally wrong to vaccinate her.

SB19’s use of “conscience” is crucial to protecting my rights, beliefs, and freedoms, as well as those of many other moms whose testimonies won’t be represented here today because they can’t leave the house with their potty training toddler or find the time to submit written testimony while they comfort their teething infant.

Many other states already allow vaccine exemptions on the basis of conscience and there has not been a resurgence of polio or a wave of children dying from diseases we commonly vaccinate for. (See <https://www.ncsl.org/health/state-non-medical-exemptions-from-school-immunization-requirements>)

The opposition is going to present various arguments against this bill, but the key issue here is one of freedom. Nothing is one size fits all. The right to say no is fundamental.

Please pass SB19 without changes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Berning