

Dear Friend of the Religious Exemption,

The Religious Exemption will be under an even greater attack once the **COVID 19 vaccine** is added to the CDC childhood schedule because MANY people who previously never used the exemption will now utilize it. This will draw even more scrutiny to the Religious Exemption and **make it even more of a target for legislatures.** Below are a few suggestions on ways to defend it in Court and PR strategies to use with the Legislatures.

HOW TO DEFEND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

In 2017 the Department of Justice published a lengthy [document](#) detailing how administrative agencies and executive departments are legally REQUIRED to protect Religious Freedom. The appendix is packed with every legal court case and federal law that supports this First Amendment right. This document is a critical tool for defending the religious exemption which will be under attack in every state. The CDC is a federal agency that appears obligated to follow this guidance and state laws that violate federal law or the federal constitution could be invalidated.

A new Conscience and Religious Freedom Division within the U.S. Dept. of HHS has been created to protect religious freedom and restrict taxpayer funds from discriminating against religion. This could prove useful since the US government is underwriting the COVID-19 vaccines. Can taxpayer funds be used to discriminate against families that claim the religious exemption to the COVID-19 vaccine or any other vaccine that is owned/patented by the CDC?

UNCONSTITUTIONAL DISCRIMINATION

The philosophy of Public Health is that you cannot have different rules for different people. Public Health officials from both political parties subscribe to the idea that the best way to protect the most vulnerable is to protect everyone. **But once the government carves out exemptions and treats different groups of people differently - then the State's police powers are likely unconstitutional.**

[CDC data shows](#) that American adults born before 1986 likely never received **9 of the 12** vaccines currently required because they did not even exist. The three vaccines administered before 1986 have likely worn off and are ineffective. **With the majority of American adults effectively unvaccinated or under-vaccinated how can the Government single out and discriminate against religious people who are unvaccinated or under-vaccinated?** The vaccine status of the teachers is as important as the children's.

Two legal non-profits - [Alliance Defending Freedom](#) and [Liberty Counsel](#) are winning religious liberty lawsuits on behalf of houses of worship against various COVID-19 State policies. Example, a state declares that only 10 people can attend a religious service but 20 people are allowed to attend a Governor's press conference. **ADF has won 14 out of 14 cases in the past few months. Liberty Counsel also has a track record of success** and published a [document](#) outlining how "Compulsory Vaccinations Threatens Religious Freedom." You may disagree (strongly) with ADF and Liberty Counsel on other culturally sensitive religious liberty issues - but they could prove to be a useful ally in protecting the religious (and maybe philosophical) exemption.

LEGISLATURES ARE A THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH

The Legislatures, according to their own logic, are a grave and immediate risk to public health since they themselves are likely unvaccinated or under-vaccinated. Many of the childhood vaccines are

NOT just for "childhood" illness but are for illnesses that now can affect anyone from any age. We cannot give the legislatures the luxury of focusing on just the COVID-19 vaccine, we must focus on the entire childhood schedule. The State Capital belongs to the people - literally. Any citizen from the state can make an appointment to speak to his Representative or staff. How can members of the public enter a building and sit in close contact with a Representative without knowing if he is a threat to his health?

The core question is WHY are the legislatures exempting themselves from the CDC vaccine schedule? Why are they allowed to exercise a secular exemption but parents might not be able to exercise a religious exemption? Legislatures may make the laws, but they are NEVER above the law.

THE GREATER GOOD

Public Health Officials claim that in order to protect the most vulnerable EVERYONE in a community must be vaccinated for "the greater good." Legislatures have a moral and professional obligation to "community immunity" and the "greater good" since they are public servants. **Activists should demand that the Legislatures immediately update their vaccine record to be compliant with the [CDC Adult Schedule](#) and then release their vaccine records to the public or formally fill out the Religious or Philosophical Exemption form.**

The average age of onset of cervical cancer caused by HPV is 50 and more than 20% of cases are in women older than 65. Legislatures should update their vaccines records for ALL diseases including non-contagious diseases. If it is good enough for the public then it is good enough for the Representatives especially since the People pay for the Legislatures' salary.

MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS

Please highlight that if a Legislature has a serious reaction to a vaccine he/she will not be able to obtain a medical exemption because the CDC and its Advisory committee believe that the only true contraindication is anaphylactic shock. Please see the "[Misperceived Contraindications](#)" that the CDC lists (scroll down a few pages to Table 4-2.) **Per the CDC and its Advisory Committee if a person/child had during the last administration of a vaccine (for example Tdap), " a 105° fever or more, a seizure, a collapse or shock-like state, immunosuppression, or a history of GBS," administration of more vaccines is encouraged.** Legislatures updating their vaccine should receive up to 16 in a 6-month span just as newborn infants do. They will likely not be able to receive a medical exemption because no doctor will risk losing his medical license by contradicting the explicit recommendations of the CDC and its Advisory committee of doctors. Anaphylactic shock is the only approved reason for missing a dose and it only applies to the one vaccine that elicited the response.

Which leads me to the final point: **The Religious Exemption protects EVERYONE because Religious Freedom at its core is Freedom of Conscience.** In good conscience, how could a parent continue to administer a vaccine after such a violent reaction? The vaccine is preventative not curative. Medicine must always weigh the risks against the benefits and continuing with vaccination is completely against the ethical oath of "First, do no harm."

PLAY OFFENSE - NOT JUST DEFENSE

We must have a unified winning strategy that puts Legislatures on the defensive. They are all working from the same playbook - so must we. We must be proactive. Once a bill is introduced to remove the religious exemption all the backroom deals have been made and it is very difficult to

defeat it. We must go on offense and put the legislatures on defense BEFORE they introduce a bill to remove the Religious Exemption.

In the word of Abraham Lincoln, "Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves."