March 16, 2026

TO: Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Child Protection League (CPL)

RE: SF 3439 Removing Immunizations Exemption for Parents' Conscientiously Held Beliefs

I am writing in opposition to SF 3439 that would remove an existing childhood vaccination exemption for parents' conscientiously held beliefs.

CPL believes that removing immunization exemptions as stated in this legislation violates parental rights under both the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. We believe this policy, if passed, will not succeed in a court challenge. For good reason.

On March 2, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ground-breaking 6-3 procedural ruling in the California parental rights' case *Mirabelli v. Bonta that* challenged California law and school policies that bar teachers from informing parents of changes in their child's gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression.

The majority ruling stated that parents, not the state, hold primary authority over "the upbringing and education of children," including the right not to be "shut out of participation in decisions regarding their children's mental health." This would apply to their children's physical health as well.

The Court's decision was definitive about the constitutional significance of parental rights. Citing *Pierce* v. *Society of Sisters* and *Meyer* v. *Nebraska*, the opinion reaffirmed that parents possess a longstanding right "to direct the upbringing and education of children under their control."

We strongly urge you to vote no on SF 3439.

Sincerely,

Julie Quist
Child Protection League

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