Dear Members of the Minnesota House and Senate,

I am writing as a concerned parent from Woodbury, Minnesota, to express my strong religious objection to the MMR vaccine for my children and to urge you to amend SF3439 to preserve the conscientious exemption.

My sincerely held religious beliefs include a profound moral objection to the rubella component of the MMR vaccine, which was developed using human fetal cell lines originally derived from abortions in the 1960s. This connection to abortion violates my deeply held convictions regarding the sanctity of life and remains a serious matter of conscience.

Additionally, my son Chase has autism and has had significant reactions to vaccines in the past. He would not qualify for a medical exemption under current guidelines, as the CDC requires anaphylactic shock for contraindication which makes it nearly impossible for children like him with documented reactions to obtain one. I feel this is very unfair and places my child in an untenable position.

In practice, medical exemptions are virtually impossible to obtain for children with prior vaccine reactions—doctors rarely grant them, schools and health departments almost never accept anything short of life-threatening anaphylaxis, and the system is designed to deny rather than accommodate. This is cruel, unjust, and leaves my vulnerable child trapped with no safe path forward.

Eliminating the conscientious exemption would force families like mine to either violate our deepest religious beliefs or flee Minnesota to safeguard our child's health—directly infringing on religious freedom, freedom of conscience, and parental rights in medical decisions.

Minnesota has historically balanced public health with respect for parental judgment, medical complexity, bodily autonomy, and freedom of conscience. I respectfully request that SF3439 be amended to retain the conscientious exemption for the MMR vaccine, allowing families to make individualized decisions aligned with their beliefs and to protect children from serious adverse reactions.

Thank you for considering this important issue.

Sincerely,

Nicole Bailey

Woodbury, Minnesota