

**Subject:** The impact of private colleges and universities authority on religious exemptions

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**Dear NJ Department of Health,**

I am submitting this public comment to oppose the August 18, 2025 NJDOH proposal referring to Subchapter 6.1 that would:

- Allow colleges to deny enrollment to students with valid religious exemptions to vaccination;
- Permit these private institutions to mandate additional vaccines beyond what public college students are required to receive, based on federal ACIP recommendations.

This language would create a two-tiered, unequal system in New Jersey, discriminate against families exercising their religious rights, and outsource state authority to a federal advisory body while giving non-medical administrators power to dictate health requirements.

**I respectfully urge NJDOH to:**

- Remove language that permits private institutions to deny religious exemptions and mandate additional vaccine requirements beyond the New Jersey public school schedule
- Protect religious exemptions equally across all educational settings in New Jersey;
- Preserve vaccine requirements as a matter of state law, not federal advisory committee recommendations.

New Jersey families deserve fairness, consistency, and respect for religious freedom. Please revise the proposal to uphold these values before adoption.