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## Assembly Bill #A8398: **OPPOSE**

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**Relates to:** Relates to limiting exemptions from immunizations; repealer. Limits exemptions from immunization requirements by local governments and private entities to medical exemptions; repeals religious exemptions for certain post-secondary students.

**THIS BILL DIRECTLY VIOLATES OUR FIRST AMENDMENT, PROHIBITING OUR RIGHT TO RELIGIOUS AND MEDICAL FREEDOMS.**

The constitution of New York State, Article 1 § 3: *The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed in this state to all humankind; no person shall be rendered incompetent to be a witness on account of his or her opinions on matters of religious belief; but the liberty of conscience hereby secured shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness, or justify practices inconsistent with the peace or safety of this state.*

Our 14th Amendment provides us Equal Rights. This bill would allow “abuse of authority” and deny humankind our liberties protected under this article. Religious and medical exemptions should not be singled out. The Declaration of Independence states: *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created Equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.* That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers **from the Consent of the governed**, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

The Frederick Douglass Foundation of New York strongly urges opposition to this bill-- please advise all elected officials and Legislators to vote NO.

**Call To Action:** Contact your local Assembly member to set up an appointment to tell them you vehemently oppose this bill and have them review this information. Go to the bill page to leave a public comment and check nay for opposition <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/A8398>

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