

Kalee Prue
Stafford Springs, CT

To Whom it May Concern, My name is Kalee Prue, and this testimony is being submitted to express my opposition to proposed Bill 374.

Sirs and Madams, I am opposed to proposed Bill 374 for numerous reasons, the first of which is the language which specifically targets homeschoolers. I have been a member of the State of CT homeschooling community since the ripe old age of three, when I learned to read while watching my mother teaching an older sibling. Myself and all five of my siblings were homeschooled throughout most or all of our school years. At the age of fifteen I entered the public schooling system of my own freewill and earned high honors, ranking in the top ten of my graduating class. My eldest sister also achieved the same ranking, and she, I, and the other four of my brothers and sisters have all went on to become productive members of society. With the exception being the youngest who is still in her very early (and uncertain) twenties, the remaining five of my siblings and I are all self employed small business owners, and four of us are homeowners, respected members of our communities, and devoted parents. I am now a member of the homeschooling community, not as a student, but as a teacher for my six year old son. In the 29 Years I have been a part of this incredibly supportive community, never have I met a family that was not, to the best of my knowledge (and the best of their ability), completely and totally committed to raising the most loving, intelligent, capable, exceptional children that is humanly possible. If there is any portion of our population that is doing right by their children and cultivating amazing additions to our society it is the homeschoolers among us. It is homeschooling families who spend day in and day out with their children, playing with, observing, teaching, learning from their children. It is these mothers and fathers who know their children inside and out (to the extent any human being can truly know the inner world of another). It is homeschoolers who more often than not go on to be the leaders and innovators of our society. Colleges and employers have in recent years realized these facts and virtually bend over backwards to welcome in homeschoolers. It is homeschoolers who have seen the problems inherent in the system and have taken it upon themselves to raise a generation of children who will bring forth a better world. With all the humility i possess and with all due respect, we, the homeschoolers among you, should be LAST on the list of people to point fingers at in light of the recent tragedies.

In preparing for this testimony I have done countless hours of research regarding the legality of this proposed bill as allowed by our Constitution, The Bill of Rights, and the Precedents set by the Supreme Court. I had originally planned to utilize my ability to copy and paste references much more than i now feel compelled to do. If I, a thirty-something year old suburban mom with a four inch iPhone screen, can find pages and pages of black and white clear cut indications of the complete violation of my rights that this Bill would allow for, than I am quite sure that you, Sirs and Madams, as members of our governing body, with access to far more technology and information than most of your constituents are privy to, must surely be able to find the more than dozen previous supreme court cases that declare in no uncertain terms that the rights of a parent to raise up a child in a manner they deem fit is not to be intruded upon by the state. I won't waste precious time dumping the entire mountain of readily available evidence here, but I will quote two of my favorites.

"It is cardinal with us that the custody, care, and nurture of the child reside first in the parents, whose primary function and freedom include preparation for obligations the state can neither supply nor hinder.... it is in recognition of this that these decisions have respected the private realm of family life which the state cannot enter." -Prince v. Commonwealth of Massachusetts 321 U.S. 158 (1944)

"The fundamental theory of liberty upon which all governments in this union repose excludes any general power of the State to standardize its children by forcing them to accept instruction from public school teachers only. The child is not the mere creature of the State; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations" -Pierce v. Society of Sisters, 268 U.S. 510 (1925)

With these two passages in mind, I would like to state here and now, in no uncertain terms that should this Bill become law, I WILL NOT COMPLY. Not with this, or any other law that unabashedly intrudes into my family's home. And I urge all other freedom loving citizens to declare the same. "If a law is unjust a man is not only right to disobey it, he is OBLIGATED to do so." -Thomas Jefferson.

In addition to my objections on behalf of my own family, and for the preservation of the fundamental rights of all of my fellow homeschoolers, I would also like to object to this bill for the preservation of the rights of ALL children statewide (and nationwide as this Bill would set a national precedent) to not have their childhood medicated out of them. Among the information I have gathered for this very testimony there is ample evidence to suggest that the real plague on our society is NOT the under diagnosing of Mental Illnesses, but rather the Industry sponsored handbook on recognized "mental illnesses" that has turned the very act of being a HUMAN BEING into a treatable disease. Children, all across this nation are being dragged into Doctors offices for such terrible offenses as "fidgeting", "throwing a tantrum", "not showing interest in school", being "unable to stand in line", and (my personal favorite) not wanting to "SHARE". It seems that what was once understood to be a normal healthy part of the process of transitioning from a helpless baby into a fully capable adult is now seen as "symptoms" used to "diagnose" and "treat" (i.e. Medicate with Pharmaceutical cocktails, mostly unapproved for use in children, and untested in the long term for their effects on ANY human brain, much less the developing ones in their more plastic stages). In fact, there is evidence to suggest that medicating children or adolescents can interfere with proper brain development causing permanent damage and creating a lifelong inability to exercise good judgment or critical thinking. It would seem that perhaps the motivation of the Pharmaceutical industry lies less in the want to help all of these doped up children and more in the desire to create lifelong clientele who truly are mentally unstable and unable to function on even a basic level without their daily dose of Mood Altering chemicals. So.... if screening ALL children and increasing the population of pill popping youngsters all across this great nation isn't the answer than what is?

I have a few suggestions... Who among us has not felt varying shades of depression... of anger.. frustration... scattered thinking... hopelessness at the prospect of facing another day? Perhaps these are NOT symptoms of "Mental Illness" as those who stand to profit from your dis-ease would have you believe. Perhaps your feelings are merited. Perhaps you are angry and depressed because we live in a society that sticks us in tidy little boxes from the crib, to the cubicle, to the coffin. Perhaps we weren't made to be livestock moving from one place to the other at the sound of the bell... Spending far more time under florescent lights than out in the sun.... perhaps we are

meant to spend our days loving and caring for our families and communities... perhaps we aren't supposed to spend ever increasing amounts of time working for ever decreasing amounts of money to pay for homes we barely do more than sleep in, and cars we spend insane amounts of time sitting in traffic in. Perhaps we are supposed to be angry at the ever more obvious injustice that is spread across the world and all around us... Perhaps we NEED to feel MORE, NOT NUMB OURSELVES to FEEL LESS! Perhaps we are more than these bodies, these labels, these boxes we are being told to accept. Pills are not the solution... Pills either make a boxed up human being numbed and dumbbed to the walls of the box so they stop fighting... or else they cause us to self destruct, sometimes with dire consequences for others in the tragic cases where sad and disturbed individuals exploded in violence taking others with them. Perhaps the answer lies in not in more legislation, but inside each individual among us... perhaps each of us has to find the key to our own box within ourselves... perhaps if we stop pretending that these boxes are okay, and subjecting our children to the same boxes... perhaps if we take a cue from a vintage cult classic film. If we each stand up one at a time and say NO. NO MORE. I WILL NOT STAY IN THIS BOX. Perhaps if we shout out our windows and from our rooftops. "I AM A HUMAN BEING GODDAMN IT! MY LIFE HAS VALUE!".... Or maybe we don't even have to shout it... but simply to take it into ourselves and BELIEVE IT. Raise our children to THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX... Perhaps we can bring about a world that no longer breeds sad human beings like Adam Lanza. Perhaps our children's children wont even be able to conceive of a world where 20% of our youth is walking around like ticking timebombs in a drug-induced perpetual state of fear, anger, frustration, and confusion.... Perhaps our great great grandchildren will get to raise their own children in a world where "The Power of Love overcomes the Love of Power". It wouldn't be as impossible as you've been told... Those of us in LOVE greatly outnumber those in POWER. All it takes is one more person to stand up. YOU.

Sirs and Madam, I thank you for your time... and for humoring one of the many natural food eating, toxin avoiding, dirt playing, happily dancing, vaccination refusing, Spirit Embracing, Child Raising, Injustice Chasing, and COMPLETELY UNMEDICATED "Mentally ill" citizens of this great land.

With Many Blessings, Kalee Prue