

## In Opposition to Sec. 17 and Sec.18 of SB 874

I strongly oppose the new proposed homeschool regulations described in Sec. 17 and Sec. 18 of SB 874. It is calling for an in person registration and an offering of public school curriculum. This seems a bit innocuous at first glance but SB 874 is an attempt to fix complicated issues in the public school system in Connecticut. Homeschooling should be completely left out of this bill. Those who have chosen to home educate their children have opted out of the public school system in Connecticut. Why would it even be mentioned at all in this bill?

Unfortunately, a shocking reason was given by Representative Liz Linehan as to why these sections were put into SB 874: homeschoolers would be forced to register with state so that they could be cross-checked with the Department of Children and Family's cases. Completely without complaint or due cause, our names and addresses would be given to a state agency in charge of investigating child abuse and neglect. Is it the State of CT's view, our governor's view, DCF's view and the CT Legislature's view that because I homeschool my own child that I am neglecting or abusing them?!

This red-flagging is discriminatory, a flagrant harassment of the homeschooling community and will unfortunately end up with the exact opposite result of keeping children safe. It will not make up for the abysmal record that DCF has in CT. DCF has been under a federal court monitor's supervision since 1992, for almost 30 years. It seems unbelievable that in all that time, DCF still has only managed to maintain compliance with half of the monitored measures. The real issue in this

case would seem to be the repeated failures of DCF to do their job and registering homeschoolers will not magically undo those failures.

And what about Sec. 18 which mentions state curriculum? I can already access CT state curriculum online. Why do I have to be given it? It does not belong in this bill and creates one more headache for school systems to deal with on top of all the new changes proposed in SB 874.

What solutions can we as a state come up with that will actually keep children safe? I want all children to be in a loving home where they are well-cared for and well-educated. I would think that no concerned citizen would want any less than that for any child. Let's focus on real solutions, not scapegoating a small group of CT citizens who are committed to home education.

In conclusion, I ask that you seek to remove Sec. 17 and 18 of SB 874 or any other bill which tries to force registration and curriculum on homeschoolers.

Thank you for your time,  
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