

February 27th, 2019

Testimony Regarding SB 874 (opposed)

Chairman McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 874. In particular I take issue with Sections 17 and 18. Connecticut has always respected the constitutional right of parents to direct the education of their children. The above mentioned Section 17 would amend General Statute Section 10-184 to require homeschooling parents to register yearly, in person, at their local school district in order to homeschool. Not private, magnet or parochial school children, only homeschooled children. I can not help but draw the comparison between this and having the Jews register in 1933. If having children not attending public school register is the goal, why is the bill calling out only one small demographic? When is it ever correct to call out a group of people who have done nothing wrong and subject them to loss of freedom or onerous regulations? The fact that this line item exists is morally reprehensible, and a textbook case of discrimination.

Section 18 calls for the establishment of “model educational frameworks” to be made available for grades K-4. If Homeschoolers wanted to use public school curriculum, we would send our kids to public school. The beauty of homeschooling is that we use what works best for our children. In many cases the Department of Education's “framework” is exactly why we chose to homeschool in the first place. This is also a waste of tax payers' money, as there is currently available, online, free of charge, curriculum for grades K-6 and beyond. (www.cthomeschoolnetwork.org) This is a great example of the Homeschool community's ability to source, provide and support ourselves autonomously. We do not need or desire to be included in any portion of future legislation. Please keep Homeschooling off of the bill. It serves no good purpose.

Thank you again for reading my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. Almand
Litchfield County