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Joint Committee On Education
Hartford State Capitol

VIA EMAIL EDTESTIMONY@CGA.CT.GOV

**Re: WRITTEN TESTIMONY OPPOSING SB874
REGISTERING HOMESCHOOLERS & FORCING COMMON CORE**

Dear Honorable Members of the Joint Committee On Education:

I am a Hispanic-American attorney, a Plymouth resident, a U.S. Citizen, and a homeschooling parent along with my wife. I am writing you today to OPPOSE proposed Senate Bill 874 (as written), which includes the following sections which are repugnant to our natural rights and liberties as protected by the U.S. Constitution:

1. Sec. 17 mandating in-person registration by ALL homeschooling parents.
2. Section 18 mandating ALL homeschooling parents to teach their children (K-4) the controversial model known as "Common Core".

I OPPOSE these sections of the Governor's Bill because it is wrong, unconstitutional and unacceptable. As a free citizen of this country I should never have to register my educational decisions as a parent. The U.S. Supreme Court has already held that education is a parent's FUNDAMENTAL, constitutional right. Neither the Governor nor the Legislature has presented a clear and convincing argument as to WHY or HOW it has the power to regulate or violate our fundamental rights. Common Core is a corporate-created initiative that is not based on empirical science but in political calculation to teach to the test from "No Child Left Behind." The values of Common Core violate my personal, intellectual, and spiritual convictions and I will not be passing these on to my children. To force me or any other parent who choose not to engage in government education is nothing less than FASCISM.

I respectfully ask the honorable members of this Committee to AMEND the bill and REMOVE these offensive portions. Your swift response will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A. J. Arias
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