

February 28, 2019

Senator Martin M. Looney, District 11

Senator Bob Duff, District 25

Representative Joe Aresimowicz, District 30

Representative Matthew Ritter, District 1

Congressman Joe Courtney, 2nd District

Senator Christopher Murphy

Senator Richard Blumenthal

State Senator Catherine Osten, District S19

State Representative Doug Dubitsky, District 047

RE: CT Legislation SB 874

As a homeschooling parent in this state for the past 9 years, I feel I bring unique perspective to the opposition to legislation SB 874 sections 17 & 18, as I also currently have two children in the public school system.

My 9th grader has been homeschooled from kindergarten through 8th grade. He tested into all Honors classes for his freshman year at NFA and has made highest honors his first semester, while being involved in sports and music, both in and outside of school. My point in telling you this is to show that homeschoolers have been proven to integrate well and perform well in all facets of life.

There is no need for these sections to be included in this bill, which is overall dealing with public school issues. I feel that with ongoing issues at public schools, there is no reason for you to require homeschoolers to “register their children in person annually”. We already pay our taxes without sending our children to school, which, in fact, helps to support your programs at these schools by allowing more money per student. Therefore, I lay the burden on the CT Education Committee to prove that this will be beneficial to our children’s education.

As for section 18, homeschoolers have access to a plethora of curriculum, already including those that align with common core. As you can see by the fact that I have a split education system in my family, I am not against public schools. I feel every parent has the right to choose the appropriate education for their children, whether public, private, or home – a law that has been in place since 1650. Education should not be a “one size fits all” entity. That is one of the attributes I have appreciated about Connecticut since I moved here 14 years ago.

I believe our state government should remain focused on bettering public schools, as well as the social systems in Connecticut, such as DCF and the SNAP/welfare system, in order to truly show support of families and the betterment of children in our state.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Delia S. Ayer