

Dear Education Committee Members,

I am writing today to oppose Bill 00874. I am particularly opposed to sections 17 and 18.

First, let me share a little about myself. I am a home educator to my two children. As a home educator, my single goal is to educate my children academically, mentally, physically, and emotionally so that they are strong and productive members of our society. I know what strengths and weaknesses my children have, and I have been their teacher from the day they were born. I know that my 6 year old will sit in the library and listen to stories endlessly, while my 4 year old has to be active while learning. We love being a part of our community. My 6 year old had me buy a grabbing stick so that when we are at the park, she can pick up trash and “help the earth”. In ballet class, my 4 year old is the first one to run to the aid of friend if they fall. We are active members of our community with daily trips to different sports, classes and our favorite; the library. We are surrounded by a wonderful community of friends and our own family, which includes 6 adopted cousins, some of which are also home educated.

I oppose Bill 00874 because asking home educators to register is a massive intrusion on my parental rights and clear discrimination. Every day our state should be working towards higher learning and more freedoms, not taking steps backwards by infringing on rights, discriminating, and ignoring the statistics that homeschooling has proven benefits, including being safer for children.

I greatly appreciate your time and consideration and I pray you will protect my rights as a citizen of this great state.

Thank you,
Kathrine Bailey
Waterbury, CT