

Dear Education Committee Members,

**Please oppose SB 874** due to the negative impact Sec. 17 and Sec. 18 make on the freedom to homeschool.

We are a military family, my husband is a Submarine Officer on the newly commissioned USS South Dakota. My husband and I chose to homeschool because of the freedom to pass on both our values and an excellent education to our children. Both he and I were homeschooled ourselves, and have benefitted greatly from the freedom to individualize curriculum and activities based on our interests and gifts.

When we moved to Connecticut, we found gorgeous forests trails, and a respect for personal freedoms that surprised us - Connecticut is a jewel in New England; its respect for individuality and freedom is a unique treasure.

There is no better way to protect those freedoms than to oppose SB 874, specifically due to Sec. 17 and Sec. 18. It is a waste of resources, as it addresses no problems and creates a great deal of work on an already stressed system. **Please oppose SB 874 as it also sets a precedent for government oversight in homeschooling which is unnecessary, as evidenced by the academic achievement nationwide of 60-80th percentile on average, no matter the level of state regulation.**

When my husband retires from the Submarine Force, we will take into account the freedoms that are made available to us by the state laws regarding homeschooling. Currently, Connecticut is the top of the list. Please help it stay that way.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your service,

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(For referenced numbers on homeschool achievement, other great statistics, and information on commonly asked questions, please see Home Education Reason and Research: <https://www.nheri.org/HERR.pdf> )