

Thursday, February 28, 2019

To the Education Committee,

I am writing in opposition of the language of SB-874 Sec. 17, which would amend Section 10-184 of the general statutes to require parents choosing to home school their children to register in person, and Sec. 18 which would include parents who instruct their children at home as subjects of the model curricula.

While these seem very innocuous, they in fact place requirements on home school families which are not placed on public and private school families. Public and private school families are not required to register, and certainly not in person. This arbitrary requirement would provide a deterrent and discouragement to families from home schooling.

The language of Sec. 17 fails to limit the scope of what such registration would entail, and the language of Sec. 18, while no doubt intended to provide a helpful internet resource, also fails to limit the scope of the language: a "model curricula" could easily be interpreted as a mandatory curricula.

Given home schooled families have statistically lower instances of incarceration, child abuse, substance abuse, score higher in standardized tests, and have higher levels of civic involvement than their public school peers, it seems unwise to take steps which may discourage parents pursuing this educational option, particularly as such steps will require additional funds to oversee, and will have the affect of adding to the state's education burden (i.e. parents who instruct their children at home are contributing to the tax base which funds public education, while not adding to the student base which requires such funding).

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Curran D. Bishop