

I am a home educator and vehemently oppose sections 17 and 18 of SB-874. Please remove all mentions of, and language referring to, homeschooling from this bill.

Section 17 of SB-874 proposes to require homeschooling families to register annually with their local school districts. Under the current law, CT statute 10-184, parents are required to instruct their children or to cause them to be instructed, and this law has worked for hundreds of years. SB-874 gives no reason at all for the alteration of this law. Despite the fact that no obvious reason is given, we in the home educator community have been informed by a member of the legislature that this registration has a goal of submitting a compiled list of home educated children to the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

Home educators are not child abusers. In fact, they are so proactive regarding their children's education that they are willing to sacrifice time and finances to lay aside their own wants, needs, and schedules to cultivate their children's personal and intellectual growth and to see them succeed in life and society. Research has shown that home educated children are less likely to be abused; in fact, they are more likely to be thriving in their intellect and character, thus resulting in an asset to society rather than a detriment. For DCF, an already failing system, to assume that homeschoolers need to be managed and regulated is ludicrous, an overstepping of governmental bounds, and a direct attack of our personal freedom as a citizen of Connecticut.

Section 18 of SB-874 proposes to give home educators access to "model curricula and frameworks" used by the public school system. Why would we as home educators want to use the same curriculum used by the public school system that failed our children to begin with? As home educators, we have unlimited access to excellent curriculum that we can customize to each of our children's personalities and learning styles. This proposal is unnecessary and a waste of tax payer dollars.

I implore you, as legislators, to thoroughly consider the implications of SB-874. Passing this bill would very negatively impact home educating families, the public school system, parental rights, and personal freedoms of the upstanding citizens of Connecticut.

Please stand with us in supporting parental rights and freedom. Please eliminate sections 17 and 18 from SB-874, remove all references to home schooling from this bill and do not add any amendments which mention or refer to homeschooling to this bill.

Please VOTE NO on SB-874, especially sections 17 and 18!

Sincerely,

Shamma Bishop

Coventry, CT