

Public Hearing, March 1st, 2019

Education Committee

RE: Opposition to SB 874, Sections 17 & 18

Dear Education Committee,

I am writing in complete opposition to SB 874 sections 17 & 18. Section 17 is 100% against our rights as citizens of this state and is blatantly discriminatory. There are no other areas within education, either public or private, where children need to be registered and placed on a list that is provided to DCF unless there is question of abuse or neglect in the home.

Most homeschool parents have made the choice to educate their children in the home due to our public schools becoming overcrowded, under staffed, and the teaching methods being outdated. Homeschoolers represent self-starters with a passion for learning and a future of contributing significantly to our communities. We continue to pay taxes, which go toward funding our public schools, even though we are forbidden to utilize any of the after-school activities etc. Homeschooling is costlier for the families, but we believe provides a better learning environment and a better launching pad for confident, educated individuals. By condoning discriminatory mandating that homeschoolers be registered and that a list be provided to DCF, you will be forcing those that believe that they can provide the best education for their child outside of public schools to leave the state, and with them their tax dollars.

Data shows that 1.3% of kids who attend school away from home are abused by their parents. 0.0035% of kids who are homeschooled are abused by their parents. That means kids who are educated at HOME are 371 times LESS likely to be abused by parents than their schooled peers.

And Section 18; there is no need for the state to create an "education framework". That the parent educator has the information necessary to teach. Most is available online and our transcripts are available for college entrance applications.

In a country founded on personal freedom, you should be ashamed to condone the discriminatory language as currently in SB 874 sections 17 & 18. I urge you to oppose this portion of the bill and remove it from the language.

Thank you.

Chris Brooks

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