

Dear Education Committee Member,

Please oppose SB 874 AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT, specifically Sections 17 and 18 requiring homeschool parents to appear in person every year to register their children for Home Instruction and to be eligible to receive Model curricula and frameworks for Reading and Math K-4 approved by the State Department of Education.

Regarding Section 17, registering in person or otherwise, infringes upon our constitutional right and freedom to choose how we educate our children. Registration is unnecessary and places an undue burden on homeschool families. Additionally, school-districts are already over-worked and financially strapped and this requirement to register homeschool students will strain an already over-burdened school system.

Regarding Section 18, the State Department of Education already provides curriculum suggestions, making this statute redundant and unnecessary.

As parents, we are the first and best educators of our children. We believe it is our duty and obligation to provide for the best educational experience for our children, based on our children's unique needs and personalities, as well as our family values, beliefs and work ethic. With no disrespect for the existing public/private school educational systems, we feel home based education is the best fit for our family. We cherish the right and responsibility to provide this for our children.

Thank you for your time and attention to this most important matter. Please support our parental rights and our constitutional right to homeschool our children without undue burdens, regulations and interference from the government.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen and Susan Buchko

Canterbury, CT