

February 28, 2019

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you to express my opposition to S.B. 874. Section 17 would change the law to newly require homeschoolers to register with the public school. It goes so far as to require that registration be done annually and in person. Registration of any kind would absolutely be an encroachment on my freedom! I have the inalienable right to raise and educate my children as I see fit. My children are happy, healthy, and thriving. They are out in the world every day learning. I do not keep my children locked up at home, I do not keep it a secret that I am a homeschooler, and I do not worry about organizations such as the DCF or the OCA because I am legally doing what I am required to do. I am OUTRAGED that the attacks just keep on coming under the guise that legislators are concerned for the children's safety. The OCA used inaccurate statistics at the Capitol last year when they said that homeschooled children were at a higher risk for child abuse. That is simply not true and the facts do not substantiate that. Representative Linehan has stated in an email to a constituent that this registration information will be given to the DCF in an effort to protect the children that were already on the DCF's radar at the public school but then were pulled to homeschool (cross-check). That makes absolutely no sense! If a family has done something that warranted an investigation while that child was in public school then the DCF would already have their information on file to follow-up with them as homeschoolers if need be. There is no talk of registering children in private schools therefore this is a direct attack on homeschoolers. The question is why. There are many families that have removed their children from public school to homeschool them, myself included. The public school failed my children on so many levels. I wish to never have any contact with them ever again. It is inappropriate to have us register with the same public school that failed our children. I have friends who when they declined to fill out a Notice of Intent (which is suggested but not mandatory) the public school misused their authority, overstepped their boundaries and reported the families to DCF simply because they didn't do what was suggested. If we were required to register our children

but for some reason didn't would we all be reported to DCF simply because we didn't register? This seems like another encroachment of our freedom. I say no! No, I will not register to do something that I have a legal right to do. No, I will not allow legislators to continue to attack homeschoolers for no reason. Legislators are supposed to represent we the people. This is an attack on the people and will not be tolerated! We are not giving up anymore freedoms! We want to be left out of legislation. Our children are statistically more successful than their public-schooled peers. Colleges actively seek out homeschooled children because they know how seriously they take it, how well they do, and how successful they are. Statistics show that in states where there is more regulation of homeschoolers, there is no greater success therefore it is unnecessary. Our homeschooling world is not experiencing any problems unlike the broken, failing public school system. It seems to me that legislators should be focusing their concerns on the public school system. Also, this appears to be all about data collection, intimidation, and control. All of which we will not be a part of. Adam Lanza was a public school student that did his schoolwork at home (homeBOUND not homeschooled) and Matthew Tirado was a public school student whose mother didn't send him to school. Neither of those cases involved homeschooling. At all. Your job as a legislator is NOT supposed to be how to erode our freedoms.

Section 18 would make curriculum available to homeschoolers. As homeschoolers we have an amazing wealth of curriculum available to us. We do not need, nor do we want, access to the Common Core curriculum. To set something up that could potentially lead to legislative creep where we could potentially be mandated to use said curriculum is something that we do not want any part of!

I adamantly oppose S.B. 874 and respectfully request that you not only kill this bill but remove homeschoolers from being included in any future bills.

Sincerely,

Christine Campbell Thompson, CT

