

Governor's Bill No.874 - An Act Concerning Education Initiatives and Services in Connecticut

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you in opposition to the Governor's Bill No. 874, specifically sections 17 (pages 20-21), making changes to Section 10-184, and Section 18 (pages 21-22), making changes to Section 10-1600. As a home educator for over ten years, these changes will infringe on my parental rights and are discriminatory by nature.

Regarding section 17, requiring home educators to register in person is discriminatory and functions on a presumption of guilt. Parents who send their children to private schools, religious school, or public schools are not required to register in person. Clearly this Bill is designed to monitor home educators in a manner in which no other groups are monitored. What is to be done with our information and why would the state government require our information now? We all stand against child abuse. Therefore, fixing DCF should be the focus, not requiring home educators to be physically judged.

Regarding section 18, it is unnecessary to provide home educators with "model curricula and frameworks in reading and mathematics." Guidelines and standards are easily found online. The Homeschool community is saturated with helpful books, curriculum, and support groups. I am concerned that this section could lead to legislation that undermines our freedom to educate our children as we see fit and could put an undue burden on home educators if it leads to specific requirements. While I completed my student teaching, I began to realize the amount of documentation public school teachers are required to record. It became clear to me that amount of documentation directly detracts from preparation and teaching time. If home educators were required to submit paperwork, the homeschool community would likely face similar failings as the public school system.

I respectfully ask that you vote NO regarding SB. 874, particularly sections 17 and 18 because no children would benefit from these sections. They are discriminatory and unnecessary.

Thank you for your time,

Jessica Carr