

Honorable Members of the CT Education Committee

This letter is with regards to the proposed language addition to Section 17 and Section 18 of SB874.

This is my request that this proposed language addition not be added. As a retired teacher I am strongly against this discriminatory practice.

This language requests that only homeschoolers be mandated to go and register, with their local school board, stands for economic and social status discrimination. Why are those who attend private school and boarding schools within the State of CT being excluded?

In all fairness and equality all children should be mandated to register, whether they attend religious based school or private academies outside of their municipality of residence. What about the distribution of money for the municipalities? Parents who send their children to private schools and who homeschool still pay the same taxes and still have the same responsibilities to provide for the well-being of their children as any other family in the public school system. On the other hand, they have to find additional services and activities on their own because they are not allowed as they do not attend the public schools.

What is the real intent of this ruling? Is it to do what is best for the child or the misguided beliefs of a group of bureaucrats that have no idea of the reality of the communities? I spend many years teaching and dealing with the crude reality of the education system. Districts are always trying to look good, have data to show performance and lowering the standards to prove success. As such they do a disservice to students. Why not demand responsibility from parents and students?

Let people make their own decisions for their children. Obviously, the state has failed too many times. This discriminatory language is saying all homeschoolers are bad and must be controlled.

Again, I am respectfully asking Sections 17 & 18 not be added to SB874. Thank you!

Maria de L. Collado-Martinez
Waterbury, CT 06704
February 28, 2019

