

February 28, 2019

To the Members of the Education Committee,

Sections 17 and 18 of S.B. 874 propose to change the requirements for homeschoolers in Connecticut. We oppose this change to current CT law, and want any mention of homeschoolers removed from S.B. 874.

Our family has homeschooled our two children in Woodstock, CT for over 15 years. Our son is a National Merit Scholar and a freshman at Williams College. Our daughter is a teenage homeschooler who works hard at her studies, enjoys her friends and volunteers in our community.

Connecticut has been a homeschool friendly state, and this is one of the reasons we choose to live here. We have been actively involved in many homeschooling groups in our area. This diverse and supportive community of homeschoolers offers social and educational opportunities as well as support and insight to each other as we choose the best educational paths for our children. We do not need to use the public school educational models developed to educate large numbers of students. We can chose what is best for our children from the vast array of educational options which are widely available.

Homeschooling is working in Connecticut. There is no reason to change the homeschool requirements. It is wrong to require parents to register at a school district office where they do not have children enrolled and wrong to burden public school employees with the task of record keeping of children who are not their students. And it is certainly wrong for DCF to create this homeschooling mandate in order to collect data on innocent citizens.

Please remove any mention of homeschool or "home instruction" from S.B. 874.

Thank you,
Sean and Susan Connor