

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rebecca Crane and I grew up in and live in East Haddam and I am speaking to you in opposition of SB 874 **AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.**

I oppose the portions of SB 874 that pertain to home education: specifically Sections 17 and 18. The language in the bill that calls for in person registration of homeschoolers is a drastic change from our current law.

The law in Connecticut that concerns the education of children acknowledges and protects the natural rights of parents to direct their own childrens' education. This law has been in place since 1650.

There is has been no evidence presented that this regulation will improve conditions for children who are statistically safer being taught at home than they are in the public school, and who consistently score higher in academic testing than public school students.

I am standing before you as a homeschool graduate who successfully graduated college with high honors and worked in the United States Senate for seven years after graduation. I am now a homeschooling parent of my own three children and am an administrator of a homeschool group with nearly 100 members. I am here to testify that homeschooling works. You do not need to just look at statistics coming out of national studies, but look at your own constituents to see evidence of many vibrant successful homeschooling families.

I believe that it would be wrong to pass a law that has no proven purpose, to change a system that does not need fixing, and that the effect would be to increase the burdens on your constituents and the local school's resources.

Singling out homeschoolers as a group for in person registration feels unnervingly like other times in history when groups have been singled out as an ethnicity or religion to register with their governments.

Our Constitution states that it is the job of the government to preserve the blessings of liberty for our posterity, and that is what I am asking you to do today. Please vote NO on SB 874 and preserve our freedoms. Thank you for your time.