

Testimony for Public Hearing  
Education Committee  
March 1, 2019

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

I am writing to express my deep opposition to the Governor's Bill No. 874, particularly Section 17 (pages 20-21), making changes to Section 10-184, and Section 18 (pages 21-22), making changes to Section 10-1600.

I grew up in Connecticut and graduated from UConn, where I earned three degrees, one of which is a bachelors in education. I've taught in the East Hartford school system. I never imagined that I would be a homeschooling parent.

But when my firstborn was five, my husband suggested that we try homeschooling him for kindergarten, just a one-year trial period. That year became the next, and the next, and the next... And this year I find myself teaching a 4<sup>th</sup> grader, a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader, a kindergartener, and preschooler, and wondering why I ever doubted that this was the best option for my children. I know them better than anyone; I am more invested in them than anyone; and they are receiving the tremendous academic advantage of having a personal tutor available during every step of their education.

At the beginning, I was needlessly concerned about socialization. So I sought out multiple co-ops and activities for my children, and during these past five years I have repeatedly found the homeschool community to be a solid, dedicated group of parents who are striving to give their best to their children.

This brings me to today's bill. I see absolutely no need to place the burden of annual in-person registration on these parents. It is an unwarranted restriction of their parental rights, and it is being administered without evidence of its necessity. Enforcing the registration of homeschool families in this state will force dedicated parents to take valuable instructional time away from their children in order to file unnecessary and invasive paperwork. That is counterproductive. Simply put, this legislation would be a waste of my time and the state's resources.