

Dear Education Committee Members,

As a lifelong resident of Connecticut and a home educator of 3 minor children, I am writing to submit testimony IN OPPOSITION to proposed bill SB 874, AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.

With regard to Sec. 17, Section 10-184, it is my belief that the inclusion of language that requires home educators to register their children with the school district office is unnecessary and intrusive, infringing on parental freedoms to educate their children as they see fit without intrusive government oversight. It appears as though the purpose of this inclusion is for the state to “get eyes on” home educators or their students and to collect information about children who are home educated to be shared with the Department of Children and Families. At best this intrusion is misguided, studies show there is no significant correlation between the degree of state control or regulation of homeschooling and the frequency of abuse in homeschooled children*; at worst it is a malicious attempt by the state to catalogue and track home educated children absent of any benefit to the child or valid justification for the intrusion. The inclusion of this language is discriminatory and I respectfully request that it be removed from the proposed bill.

With regard to Sec 18, Section 10-1600, parent educators neither want nor require “model curricula and frameworks” to be made available to them by the Department of Education. Access to the Connecticut Core Standards is already provided to anyone needing in-depth information and guidelines on state standards, for free, through the Connecticut Department of Education website. Including language to provide curriculum to home educated students is superfluous and opens the door to state mandated curriculum for home instruction, which is absolutely unnecessary and without merit.

Allow me to reaffirm my strong OPPOSITION to Governor’s Bill 874, particularly Sec. 17, Section 10-184 and Sec. 18, Section 10-1600, and ask that any language regarding home education be removed from the bill entirely.

*<https://www.nheri.org/degree-of-homeschool-regulation-no-relationship-to-homeschool-child-abuse/>

In great appreciation of your consideration,

Becky Duff
Windham County