

Eric and April Edens
55 Forest Drive
Uncasville, CT. 06382

Dear Education Committee:

We are parent educators who have been solely responsible for the education of our children for the last 8 years. We continue to enjoy the freedom we have in this state to raise our children in a manner that we deem appropriate and aligns with our values and beliefs. This is a freedom that is backed by CT General Statute 10-184 that parents have the primary responsibility to care for and instruct their children *unless* they arrange for someone else to provide such instruction. We enjoy the freedom of choosing our own curriculum based on our children's individual interest and academic level. There are already suggested guidelines for curriculum and the state freely offers its curriculum for anyone to have access to should they choose to do so. For some this is a ready help when needed. Therefore, we **oppose** sections 17 and 18 of SB 874. Section 17 would require homeschoolers to register in person with their school district in order to homeschool. Why? What information are you seeking and what do you want to do with it? Why does it need to be in person? This strikes me as very discriminatory and would give the public school a platform in which to judge a family as being capable or

not capable to homeschool. We know these judgements exist. It seems to me that DCF is trying to attain this information in order to assert their power over a select group of people. That is a gross government overreach that would defy what is already established as law. Are they trying to monitor us? Doesn't last years case with Matthew Tirado clearly indicate that this agency is over burdened with cases they can't follow through on by themselves? Section 18 of the bill would have the Department of Education establish model educational frameworks for homeschoolers. While these would not be required it provides an entry for the state to dictate to us what our curriculum should be. Again, a curriculum is already in place that anyone can use if they so choose. Section 18 is redundant.

Thank you for your time and effort to read this. We hope you will oppose these sections of the bill. We will be watching for the outcome of this agenda.

Sincerely,
Eric and April Edens