

Dear State Representative/Senator:

I am writing in opposition to Sections 17 and 18 of Governor's Bill #874, which pertains to home educators. The primary reasons for my communication are the disregard for individual children's needs and discrimination against home educators incorporated into this bill.

I am opposed to section 17 of the Governor's bill because I feel that forcing home educators to register is a violation of our children's' rights, as well as our parental rights as citizens of the United States of America. This bill not only ensures that homeschooled children are categorized as "abnormal", it also guarantees discrimination against them.

The new bill requires a child being educated by a parent to register in person. Not only does this allow discrimination and profiling of my children and myself by a government official, it also ensures that we are labeled as "special". This act seriously undermines the freedoms of being a citizen of the United States. There are also currently no requirements for anyone to meet the parents of a child going to public school or to inspect their homes to ensure safety.

In regard the Section 17 of the Governor's bill # 874's ability to protect children by moderating home education, there are numerous studies showing problems with public schools and children's' welfare. Moreover, home-educated children do remarkably well compared to their public school peers in academics and life. My children are in no way safer or better educated going to public school; Bullying, lack of security, teachers playing favorites, no physical activity, no child left behind, class size, standardized instruction, etc...

Section 18 of Governor's bill #184 suggest "curriculum". I, as a parent, know my children's' learning capabilities and their interests. It is my goal to incorporate learning in parallel with life. A "curriculum" as used in public schools to teach kids to excel at test taking will interfere with this. We strive to make our children's education as tailored to their needs as we can while teaching the skills required for life. In school children are taught to sit still and do well on standardized tests, at home they are taught life skills, critical thinking, problem solving, and real history (as a Native American I can assure you history being taught is not the truth). We want our children to be able to read the documents created by the founding fathers of this nation in their original form. Sounds ridiculous but I want my children to be able to read an analog clock.

The last point I want to make is that our family chooses to be a single income family in this overpriced and overtaxed state so our children can be homeschooled. We struggle monthly with bills just so we can afford to live, support the local schools through taxes, and then support our own children's home education. We do that because we believe we know what is best for our children, we did not have children for the state to raise and educate them as they see fit. We are real parents taking on the burden of raising and educating our children ourselves, despite that making us outcasts of this modern "public school and electronics babysitting" society.

Sincerely

Timothy Ems