



ACTION

Testimony Against S.B. 874

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Jr.

Good afternoon members of the committee, Chairman Sanchez and Chairman McCrory. My name is Peter Wolfgang and I am the President of the Family Institute of Connecticut Action, an organization whose mission is to "encourage and strengthen the family as the foundation of society and to promote sound, ethical and moral values in our culture and government." I am here today to ask you to oppose S.B. 874, "An Act Concerning Education Initiatives and Services in Connecticut," because of Sections 17 and 18.

This bill is an attempt to make homeschoolers register with the State for the first time in Connecticut history.

Section 17 would require homeschooling parents to "personally appear annually at the school district office and sign a registration form indicating that such child will be receiving home instruction."

Under current law, homeschooling parents may (*but are not required*) to submit a notice of intent to their school district. *Requiring* that this be a mandatory in-person annual filing would not only restrict the freedom that homeschooling families currently enjoy in Connecticut. It would also pave the way for *further* state intrusions on that freedom at some later date.

Section 18 merely makes homeschooling families eligible for state-approved curricula. But the *mention* of homeschoolers in that section could blur the lines between state-approved and family-approved curricula and lead to more onerous regulations in the future.

Homeschooling families pay Connecticut taxes for public schools which they do not use. In doing so, they save the state thousands of dollars *per family*. And they get no financial compensation for their sacrifice.

Instead, the state targets the families most invested in educating and raising their children to be good citizens by proposing this bill. And by requiring only homeschooled families to register, and not other families who use non-public education, you are discriminating against homeschoolers.

Please do the right thing and remove Sections 17 and 18 from S.B. 874. If those sections are not removed, please vote "No" on the bill. Thank you.