

Testimony opposing proposed Governor's bill SB874

My name is Molly Farrington from Waterbury, CT. I ask you to please **vote against SB874**, specifically sections 17 and 18.

Section 17 adds language to CT statute 10-184 that would require *in-person registration* of homeschoolers in each district. There is no need to have homeschoolers register when we have been homeschooling successfully under the current system for over thirty years, and no evidence that it would accomplish anything. To mandate registration in person would be unduly burdensome and significantly restrict the freedom that homeschoolers currently have. It would also place an additional financial burden on local school districts offices to have to hire additional personnel to handle the registration and follow-up. There is no proof there is any problem with homeschoolers who have proven their children perform above-average academically as compared to public-school students.

Section 18 would amend statute 10-1600 by “offering” curriculum “aligned with student achievement standards adopted by the State Board of Education” to “*parents who are registered to provide home school instruction*” from kindergarten through 4th grade. I see no need to offer this curriculum to homeschoolers when the information is already available on the state website. When I home educated my sons grades k-12, who are now grown, I did so because I had specific curricular goals that were different from the public-school curriculum on purpose. My sons performed academically far superior than their public-school counterparts, in keeping with research that shows homeschoolers perform better.

Sections 17 and 18 enter the terms “home instruction” and “home school” into CT statute for the first time. Once they are written into the law, they can be redefined and manipulated via amendments down the road to serve the purpose of almost any legislation. There is no need to codify home schooling who statistically are safer than those who are in public school, and consistently score higher academically than public school students. It is solution in search of a problem.

Please vote against SB 874. Thank you.