

Testimony for Education Committee Public Hearing, March 1, 2019

Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, and members of the Committee,

I'm Rebekah Farrington from Naugatuck. I loved being home schooled and I enjoy homeschooling my children today.

I oppose Section 17 of SB 874 requiring in-person registration of homeschoolers. This is invasive and an unnecessary attempt at governmental oversight of parents who are doing an excellent job educating their children on their own. This might be like requiring The Taft School to register with the Waterbury public schools so that they can make sure The Taft School is doing a good enough job. This makes no sense, and it seems kind of backwards because homeschooling has a proven history of success!

George Washington, Thomas Edison, Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and Mark Twain, just to name a few, were all homeschooled! A 1999 study¹ found that homeschool students taking the Iowa Test of Basic Skills or the Tests of Achievement and Proficiency scored in the 70th to 80th percentiles among all the students nationwide who took those exams. Also, 25 percent of home-schooled students were studying at a level one or more grades above normal for their age.

Other more recent studies continue to confirm that home-schooled students score exceptionally high on nationally-normed achievement tests. I ask that due to the undeniable success of homeschoolers, you would please say no to section 17 of SB 874.

In addition I oppose section 18, "offering" model curriculum to homeschoolers from kindergarten through 4th grade.

One of the best things about homeschooling is getting to choose what I teach my children. This offer may seem benevolent, but I see it as a Trojan Horse. I've seen the trend before: accept the free government help, and with it accept living under their microscope. In time they will control what we are or aren't allowed to teach. It is not free....The price is too high. It would be the beginning of a gradual, steady loss of freedom, and independence. I am glad to buy my own curriculum.

Please vote no on sections 17 and 18 of S.B. 874. Thank you.

1 March 1999 study by the Educational Resources Information Center Clearing House on Assessment and Evaluation at the University of Maryland