

I oppose SB 874 and ask you to stand in opposition on the grounds that the changes added to Section 17 & 18 have nothing to do with implementing the Governor's Budget recommendations and would in fact place an additional burden on school districts for allocating school resources to homeschoolers. You must realize that mandating homeschoolers to register and then seeking to track them will in fact cost school districts and personnel more time and money, the exact opposite of what you are stating the purpose of this bill is. Currently, homeschoolers pay taxes and receive NOTHING from school districts, therefore that's already a win for your budget. Providing support for homeschoolers instead of mandatory regulation might be an option. The sheer fact that Connecticut Homeschoolers can in no way, receive anything from a school district without registration directly shows that homeschoolers do not affect the budget. If this is true then is there must be another motive for registering homeschoolers? We pay taxes and get nothing in return for educating our children. The only thing we get is scrutiny. If you pass this bill, who will be in charge of making sure homeschoolers are treated fairly and equitably across the state? Some public educators support homeschoolers and some are vehemently opposed. Who will be in charge of homeschool registration? What happens if homeschoolers don't register? All of the answers to these questions will create more line items in the school budgets! Homeschoolers have been educating their children safely and effectively for many years without the intrusion of government. You will see and hear from numerous testimonies that there are many different and unique reasons why people homeschool. The bottom line is that parents who homeschool want the best for their children and have exercised the privilege yet also bear the sacrifices it takes to provide an education especially now in what seems to be an unsupportive state. If anything was to be changed you should be promoting a system of offering support for a Homeschooler who asks for it, rather than setting up a system of regulation! Offering participation in sports if someone CHOOSES to register (HB5301), offer classes if someone CHOOSES to register, availability of special services to those who CHOOSES to register. There are ways to offer services without mandatory regulation. But that is not the goal is it? How would this affect the budget? It would cost more. So, again I ask you to question WHY are you including registration of homeschoolers in this bill!? Who is supporting this bill? The change of regulations for homeschoolers does not affect the budget therefore you should reject this bill. The bill states the purpose is "to implement the Governor's budget recommendations". To put it simply, how is quietly trying to add language in Section 17 & Sec. 18 to have homeschoolers to register in person with School District necessary or helpful or really have anything to do with the budget at all? If school districts are already failing, not meeting standards, or are of such concern that we need to form committees to regionlize, why would you add another level of responsibility to which they are ill-equipped, ill-informed to navigate and mandate. Please reject SB 874, specifically Sec. 17 & 18.

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