

February 27, 2019

To the members of the education committee,

I am writing today in opposition of SB 874, specifically sections 17 and 18.

My family moved to Connecticut because my husband is US Navy and we requested the submarine base in CT with plans to stay an extended time. We specifically requested Connecticut for its current Constitutional approach to the education of our children. Because of these freedoms to educate our children we chose to buy a home in Gales Ferry, Connecticut. I am shocked to see this state presenting a bill that sneaks in such discriminatory requirements for homeschoolers in an attempt to remove these freedoms. The current laws concerning homeschooling have a 30 year track record of success.

Homeschooling parents should not be required to personally sign a registration form at their local school district office, and do not need access to model curriculum approved by the Department of Education.

I am opposed as there is no need for it, no funding for it and no details or reason given. There is no information provided of who will have access to this information or what exact information will be required. It has been said that DCF wants a list of those who homeschool in this state. That is unacceptable and unnecessary. The excuse that sec 17 is needed to "cross check" with DCF, is just an excuse for their current failings. If DCF already has an active case they are already aware of how that child is being educated and there is simply no need. Giving more money for this registration is ignoring the already problematic system of DCF and spending funds that are needed elsewhere. Connecticut schools have enough budget constraints, adding a registration process (sec 17) only takes away from an already tight budget.

I ask you today to remove both sections 17 and 18 from this bill. And any other attempts to change the current, successful, homeschooling laws in Connecticut.

I am aware of the masses of people who are opposing this bill in its entirety. I am asking you to hear the people you represent who believe you will do what is in their best interests.

Thank you,
Christine Gold
Gales Ferry, CT