

To the Members of the Legislature and Connecticut Education Committee:

Regarding SB 874 Sections 17 and 18:

My name is Megan Hammond-Basu. I am a proud homeschooling mom to two boys. I strongly oppose Section 17 and 18 of SB 874. We live in Waterbury and in a city that already has schools filled to capacity and seriously over-worked teachers and administration, with very little funding, asking us to register as a homeschooling family is not only wrong but a violation of my right. I chose to homeschool because the education system was failing my children. They did not get the services and help that they needed and had to deal with being bullied in the school system and the school system didn't listen to the reports of bullying. I should not be required to appear and register my children at any school. The school system is already aware of the fact that I homeschool so how is asking us to "register" not redundant and extra work for an already over-worked system. This bill desires that school officials have to grant permission to families seeking to withdraw their children from school. This violates a fundamental right that we have as parents to give our children a good education. If this is required for those seeking to withdraw for homeschooling, then why not require this for a family seeking to take their children out to put them in private school.

In section 18 of this bill, it is asked that the local schools provide framework for us to use as curriculum. There is no need or this language. The requirements for each grade level can already be found on the Board of Education's websites. Furthermore, if homeschoolers are expected to meet these requirements then why would you not ask the same of private schools within the state. Shouldn't each child attending a private school be asked to register with their local school boards? It is a very slippery slope between asking families to register to then controlling what and how we teach our children. Also, since the school board will be requiring us to register, why then would we not receive funding from the schools, or permission to use the sports teams and other school resources. If we are being honest here, this bill is asking homeschooling families to give much but the local schools are being asked to give nothing back to these families.

In closing, I once again ask that Section 17 and 18 of SB 874 be removed and the original state statute continue to be the governing language regarding homeschool within the state of CT.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding my comments I can be reached at (203)217-7830 or by email at tjhdmb@yahoo.com

Thank you,

Megan L. Hammond-Basu

176 Lincoln Street, Unit 12

Waterbury, CT 06710