

**February 26, 2019**

**State of Connecticut  
General Assembly  
Re: Governor's Bill No. 874**

To the Members of the Education Committee:

Please accept this testimony in opposition to the proposed bill, **SB-874**. This is in specific reference to any mention of or requirements suggested of homeschool parents and families.

We are a homeschool family living in neighboring Rhode Island and have been truly disturbed by the proposal of these requirements. I am a Clinical Social Worker who has been working with children, families and educational systems for the past 14 years.

There is no basis whatsoever for including the homeschool community in this proposed bill. It is nothing but a gross overreach of power. These sanctions have nothing to do with the education bill at hand, of which there is a mass amount of opposition besides this inclusion.

There is no evidence to suggest there is any benefit to this, far more harm comes to children attending public school than any children who are educated at home by their primary caretakers. This is not an area that need any assistance or participation from entities outside of the home and is a constitutional breach to suggest otherwise.

I have been researching homeschool for the past 6 years. I have found only the most exceptional, well-educated, polite, well-adjusted and emotionally stable children. In addition, the most attentive, involved, intelligent and loving family members.

I implore you to not allow the creation of problems that do not exist or participate in back-door politics to remove freedom from hard-working United States citizens holding their children's best interest at heart.

Sincerely,

Melissa Hecht, MSW, LICSW