

I am writing to you today to ask you your stance on SB Sections 17 and 18 of S.B. 874. This is the section of the bill that calls for mandatory in-person registration for homeschoolers. I want you to know I vehemently oppose any regulations or registration for homeschoolers. It has come to my attention that when homeschoolers register with the public schools, our information will be cross-referenced with DCF data. The intent, as Rep Liz Lineham detailed in an email to another homeschool family, is to crosscheck for families with neglect investigations. I'm sure you know that if DCF already has an open case on a family then DCF already knows the family wants to homeschool. There is no need for homeschoolers to register to find families with DCF cases. DCF should already know about the families they are already involved with. In reality, what the legislature appears to want is for homeschooled families to register with DCF with the school district acting as the middle man. THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS!

According to data from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, U.S. Department of Education and other sources homeschooled children are actually less likely to be abused by their parents than public schooled children. Why then does DCF concern themselves with us? Why not ask every public school parent to register?
https://homeschoolingbackgrounder.com/?fbclid=IwAR3_26vFrE2A8jH1nUP5mIwRJdrH6e6QG e-suzWT04u6iEz5Kr0rfGqfv-E

While a couple of sensationalized stories go viral from time to time, in truth in almost every case DCF (or CPS depending on the state) was already fully aware of concerns in the family and they dropped the ball. The number of so-called homeschooled children who do suffer abuse is a tiny fraction of the population. While NO child should ever be abused, an entire group of people should not have to suffer government intrusion because of the crimes of a tiny minority. In no other area would we ever tolerate this. If my neighbors are caught with drugs, would the government come in and search every home in my neighborhood? Absolutely not. So if one family commits a heinous crime against a child why should every family have to give up rights?

CT's DCF system has been failing and continues to fail.
<https://ctmirror.org/2019/02/26/federal-monitors-report-in-dcf-case-shows-continued-concerns/> This is not a homeschooling issue, this is an issue of continued DCF Failures.

Before I was a homeschooling mother I was a special education teacher in the public school system. Today I serve the homeschool community by helping parents attempting to transition out of the school system and bring their children home. Registering homeschoolers may not seem like big deal on the surface however it is a tremendous deal. Our school system operates with a culture that believes that school professionals are all knowing experts that are better than parents themselves. I witnessed it as a teacher and now I hear the stories from fellow homeschoolers.

Too many parents have been bullied and intimidated by school professionals when they are simply seeking a quality life and education for their child. When a school system refuses to help

a family with adequate special ed services, or to end a bullying issue, or even worse outright bullies a family that disagrees with anything a school professional says we have a problem. Families often opt to homeschool after years of dissatisfaction with the public schools. WHY SHOULD ANY FAMILY WHO HAD UNDERGONE SUCH AN EXPERIENCE BE FORCED TO GO BACK TO THOSE SCHOOLS ANNUALLY FOR SUCH A REGISTRATION AND LIKELY INSPECTION. It's absurd.

This short article was written for the Connecticut Homeschool Network (which I am Vice-president) by Attorney Deborah G. Stevenson, of National Home Education Legal Defense, in regard to Sections 17 and 18 of S.B. 874. Please read it. I look forward to your response. <https://www.mynewsletterbuilder.com/email/newsletter/1413848760?fbclid=IwAR2s3cfmZnkVjy7Plk6jH1WISPsu3nkzG6LfzCvSoxVSrjxO53yWIHB1IXw>

Please REMOVE sections 17 and 18 of S.B. 874 immediately. It is unnecessary and potentially damaging to a group of people who have done nothing to deserve such scrutiny.

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