

February 28, 2019

To all Concerned and Voting on Bill SB 874

We, the Helbig family strongly oppose SB 874.

Thankfully we are currently a no-notice state with an option to voluntarily file a notice of intent. Mandatory registration would place an unnecessary burden on homeschooling families. Our children are safer, score higher academically and are overall more well- rounded and prepared for real life as compared to students in public schools.

Also, there is already curriculum suggestions and information on the state website. "Offering model curriculum is completely needless. Currently there is a wonderful abundance of resources for homeschooling families that provide a variety of teaching and learning tools for homeschooling families. This vast menu allows parents to tailor each child's individual needs, learning style and interests to enable them to be truly successful students that are prepared for their own future.

One of the best benefits of living in Connecticut is our freedom to homeschool our children. Placing restrictions and demands on homeschooling families will be a detriment to that freedom. Our children are thriving. They are intelligent, kind, respectful human beings. Our oldest son is only 19 and just finished trade school and landed a job as an apprentice within a week of graduating. Our 16 year old daughter is a light wherever she goes whether it's volunteering with special needs children or having a lesson with her piano teacher. I just received a compliment last night from our 13 year olds son's basketball coach saying, "You've done a great job. He's a wonderful kid." These compliments are too often to list from so many people all the time; even strangers at the grocery store or a restaurant. I know our children would not be who they are today and who they are becoming for a better tomorrow if we didn't have the freedom to homeschool them without restrictions in Connecticut. Please don't take this freedom away. Please vote No to SB 874.

Sincerely,

Gaetana Helbig