

SB. 874 - Maggie Henriques

Testimony for Public Hearing

Education Committee

March 1st, 2019

Maggie Henriques

Trumbull, CT 06611

SB 874 - An Act Concerning Education Initiatives and Services in Connecticut

Dear Honorable Members of the Connecticut Education Committee:

I am against SB. 874, particularly Section 17 (pages 20-21), and Section 18 (pages 21-22). I am respectfully requesting that this proposed language addition not be added. Connecticut's current statutes regarding a parent educator's obligations are clear and do not require any new legislation.

Requesting, that parent educators "physically appear" to register their children with the Department of Education is obvious discrimination. Parents with children in religious based schools or private academies do not have to appear in person to register with the Department of Education to enroll their child or children. Again, insisting that only parent educators appear in person to register is profiling, discriminatory and a violation of parent educators' rights. The sheer fact that Connecticut home educators who pay taxes can in no way, receive anything from a school district without registration shows that home educators do not affect the budget any more than taxpayers without children. If it is in fact about budget what about the children who attend private or religious based schools outside of their municipality of residence? Shouldn't they be registered with their own municipality, or also the municipality in which they attend school, so both municipalities can receive money from the State for these children who, even though a resident, does not attend the local public school district. This way the local district or districts can benefit off of these children that do not attend their schools. If it is not about budget then there must be another motive for registering home educators. The true purpose of this proposed bill is to have parent educators to appear in person so they can be physically and biasedly judged, along with their children, as well as have their information targeted and forwarded to the Department of Children and Families. The Office of the Child Advocate has the the legal freedoms needed to protect every child in Connecticut already, regardless of where they are being educated. Requiring parent educators and their children to "physically appear" is not only discriminatory but a gross overreach of government and a violation to all parent educator's current rights.

In addition, parent educators do not require "model curricula and frameworks in reading and mathematics" be provided to them by the Connecticut Department of Education. The

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Connecticut Department of Education currently provides access to the Connecticut Core Standards for anyone needing in-depth information and guidelines on state standards, for free through their website. I am deeply concerned that this could be a gateway to mandating curriculum for children educated outside of public school. By creating a “model curricula”, the Department of Education is establishing a “one-size-fits-all” approach to learning. Students regardless of where they are educated learn in different ways and that education needs to fit the needs of the student, not the reverse. Educators regardless of where they teach know the value of being able to teach a child in a way that they understand. Creating “model curricula and frameworks in reading and mathematics” would require additional budgeting, personnel, and resources. It is not necessary to include this in this bill or any new legislation.

Please reject Governor’s Bill No. 874, specifically Section 17, 18.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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