

To the members of the Education Committee,

My name is Suzanne Hodgdon and am a resident of Cheshire. I am writing to inform you I oppose S.B. 874, An Act Concerning Initiatives and Services in Ct. In particular, section 17, requiring homeschooling parents to register annually, and section 18, providing framework curriculum for homeschooled K-4 through 4th grade.

I have been homeschooling my children for the past seven years. Requiring homeschooling parents to register not only is a gross infringement of my constitutional rights, but is completely unnecessary. What would be the purpose of requiring homeschooling parents to register with the school system? According to an emailed shared by Liz Linehan it would be to "cross-reference" information with DCF. How is that not a complete abuse of power? So now we are to be considered guilty simply because we have chosen what is best for our children? DCF is already failing the children under its care, the latest report from DCF's federal monitor shows that the agency is still failing to meet half of the measures that are part of a court supervised exit plan. According to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Education, and other sources, children who are educated at home are 371 times less likely to be abused by parents than their schooled peers. Homeschooling families are NOT the problem.

In regards to section 18, there is absolutely no need for the state to provide a framework curriculum for any grade. The beauty of homeschooling is that there are more than enough curriculums available to homeschooling families, many at low to no cost. There is no need to burden tax-payers by funding a program that is absolutely not needed.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Hodgdon