

February 27, 2019

RE: SB-00874

Dear Clerk of the Education Committee and CT Legislators,

My husband and I were homeschooling parents, our three children completed their homeschooling and went on to further their education at various colleges or schools. They all successfully completed their higher education, and are now productive citizens in Connecticut with their own families endeavoring to homeschool their children.

I am writing to oppose SB-00874 and would like you to vote no to this bill or remove the language referencing home school parents and home instructed students. Are you aware of these concerning portions of the bill?

Section 17 language mandates parents appear in-person to register home educated children. Section 18 refers to model curriculum to be offered to homeschoolers.

I oppose regulating homeschooling parents for the following reasons:

1. **This mandate is infringes on our freedoms.** It removes and reduces our current freedoms and rights as parents to homeschool our children. I am fully opposed to any mandates or regulations on homeschool parents and their children. There is no clear purpose for having parents register homeschooled children with the public school system.
2. **It is entirely inappropriate** to ask parents who do NOT wish to be part of the public school system, or who have withdrawn from the public school system, to then have to register their children in a school system they just indicated they do not wish to be part of.
3. **Mandated registration places undue burden on parents**, who would have to make a special trip to a town office to register. There is no description of what this registration would entail, who would manage it, or how long it would take. It is a burden to require parents to take time away from the home educating we are committed to doing, to complete a registration that would serve no purpose to them or the town/school district.
4. **Mandated registration of homeschool children places undue burden on the educational system and the taxpayer.** Clearly, staffing and resources would be needed to manage a new registration system. Registration would take up time in the current educational system, for students who are not actually attending the school, taking resources away from actual public school students. This is a burden on school districts already over-loaded with their current student enrollment. Plus, this mandated registration would cost additional tax-payer dollars, and all for something that is not necessary. And, what would schools do with this registration? This remains unexplained.
5. **Offering model curricula to homeschool families is unnecessary.** Curriculum frameworks and standards already exist on the Dept. of Ed. website and many district websites. Also, per FOI act, parents should be able to ask to see their district's curriculum and sample materials. Further, as a home educator, I do not require curricula from the public school system, as I seek out curriculum from the abundant and differentiated resources available to educators today to provide individualized instruction to my children.

This bill's language regarding homeschoolers and home instruction is not appropriate or needed, and I oppose it fully. I urge you to remove all language relating to homeschool / home education / home instruction from this bill OR to vote no, should a bill including such language come up for a vote at any time.

Sincerely,

Antoinette Howard

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