

February 27, 2019

RE: SB-00874

Dear Clerk of the Education Committee, and CT Legislators,

As a homeschooling parent, I am writing to oppose SB-00874 and to ask you to remove the language that references homeschooling and homeschoolers in CT, or to vote NO to the bill if it comes to a vote with its current language intact. Please consider the following items:

Section 17 of the bill proposes to require in-person registration by homeschooling families.

1. **It is unclear what purpose this would serve** to either the homeschool family or the school district. Is there a current problem that is solved by homeschoolers registering in the public school system? Is there a benefit to either the homeschool family or the school district by creating this registration process? Why put into law a process that has no definable purpose?
2. **In-person registration by homeschool families sets up an unprecedented infringement** on the freedoms of CT families to choose their method of education for their children without having to answer to another, uninvolved institution. Families who have chosen to opt out of public education should NOT then need to register their children under that same education system. Homeschool families in CT should NOT be required to register with a school district in order to maintain our right to educate our children.
3. The proposed in-person registration **will put a burden on the school districts**, who clearly will have to allocate personnel and other resources toward making this new registration system work. It does not make sense to ask the school districts to spend their valuable resources (which should be going to the students enrolled in their schools) on a new registration process, particularly when there is no clear reason for the registration and nothing valuable gained by it.

Section 18 proposes to offer model curriculum to homeschoolers.

1. **Homeschool families already have abundant curriculum choices.** There are many excellent resources available to home educators today. Being able to research the diverse methods and to choose the ones which will best meet the individual needs of my children is one of the reasons I homeschool. Homeschool families do not need further access to model curricula.
2. There is no need for an amendment that offers model curriculum because that **information is already available on the state education website**. Homeschooling families already have access to state-approved curriculum choices and standards, should we desire to utilize or reference them.

CT homeschool families represent a thriving, contributing sector of our state. We are doing an excellent job educating future citizens of our state and our country. We have done so without regulation, and we cherish our freedom. I ask you to remove all language referring to home school, home education, or home instruction from this bill, or to vote NO if the bill goes to a vote.

Sincerely,
Trista Hummel
Bloomfield, CT