

To: Education Committee

From: Nancy Jackson, Berlin, Connecticut

RE: Governor's Bill No. 874: AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.

Please vote "NO" on proposed Governor's Bill No. 874, specifically Sections 17 (pg. 20) and 18 (pg. 21). As an experienced homeschool parent, I have seen firsthand the incredible success of homeschooling, not only for my family, but also for the many amazing families within the homeschool community. Personally, I have 4 children who have all been homeschooled. The three oldest have graduated college and are successful in their various careers. The youngest is currently attending college and has made the dean's list. Homeschooling works well.

The Business Insider published the article: *Homeschooling could be the smartest way to teach kids in the 21st century — here are 5 reasons why*, by Chris Weller on Jan. 21, 2018. Weller states "Research suggests homeschooled children tend to do better on standardized tests, stick around longer in college, and do better once they're enrolled. A 2009 study showed that the proportion of homeschoolers who graduated from college was about 67%, while among public school students it was 59%."ⁱ

No amount of regulation will improve the education of homeschooled children. If the real concern is child abusers using false claims of homeschooling, the solution does not lie in regulating homeschoolers. The solution rests in enforcing existing laws and strengthening the Department of Children and Families (DCF) so they can follow through on their existing reports and cases of abuse. In the tragic case of Matthew Tirado, the 17-year-old Hartford teen with autism who died from starvation, dehydration and child abuse, Matthew's mother was "known to DCF for years,"ⁱⁱ This was not a homeschooling problem. It was an abuse problem. Cases of child abuse should be investigated and handled thoroughly by DCF.

I urge you to **oppose Governor's Bill No. 874**, specifically Sections 17 (pg. 20) and 18 (pg. 21).

ⁱ <https://www.businessinsider.com/reasons-homeschooling-is-the-smartest-way-to-teach-kids-today-2018-1>

ⁱⁱ <https://ctmirror.org/2018/04/26/child-advocate-finds-homeschooled-kids-subject-abuse-neglect/>