

February 25, 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am firmly opposed to SB 874. I implore you to vote no on this bill. I am strongly opposed to sections 17 and 18 and request any/all homeschooling language to be removed from the bill.

I am a homeschooling mother of three children. Several years ago I intended to send my children to public school. Now when you have small daycare aged children they tell you that you should not enroll them in a daycare without an open door policy. They stress you need to see what is occurring at the daycare center and you should be able to walk into the location at any time and see what is going on and how the children are being treated. So my oldest daughter turned 4 and the time came to enroll her in public school. I contacted the Meriden BOE and asked if I could visit the school maybe look in a classroom, find out about the curriculum and anything else the schools had to offer. I was told no. I was told that I could come and have a meeting with the Superintendent and someone from the school. The balance of power in that situation seemed one sided to me and I decided to look into homeschooling.

Since that time I've been involved with the homeschool community. I've met many parents who have withdrawn their children from the public schools. They had fought tooth and nail to get their children basic services, basic education. They schools have turned parents down, refused to follow IEP's the teachers don't have the help they need. There are kids with behavioral issues in the classroom and the teachers are spending most of their time catering to them and the kids who are ready to learn can't even get a proper lesson taught to them. There is bullying from students and teachers alike and countless new stories and articles about abuses in the schools. Yet we think it is appropriate to force these parents, who essentially just took their kids out of a war zone, to parade their kids back into the very schools that caused such hardship and mental anguish for registration. I speculate the bullying to continue from the schools in the form of criticising parents curriculum choices, decisions to homeschool and more. This opens a door for the public school system to continue a power struggle with families. As parents under 10-184 it is our right and responsibility to instruct our children first. The public and private schools are secondary and tertiary to that serious obligation. We do not have to register for any other basic rights, why are we being required to register to instruct and raise our children? There has been no discussion or dialogue for the reasoning of this request nor precedence for this being put into law as a requirement. The voluntary Notice of intent and portfolio reviews are already used to intimidate and coerce parents into doing what the public schools want and schools threaten families with no other allegation to contact DCF just for a family exercising their right to instruct their children at home. I will not and can not support a bill that will open up a multitude of more abuses to come to the families who have decided to take the safety and instruction of children into their own hands.

In light of new information that suggests that the registration information is intended to be used by DCF. This is a violation of our civil liberties. I thought this was America a free

country in which we were innocent until proven guilty. This is a witch hunt, a violation and part of a bigger hidden agenda that is being kept not only from the community and parents but it seems from many of the legislators who will be responsible to vote on this bill. I am shocked and dismayed at the blatant disregard for families and constituents.

I also find section 18 in which framework will be provided to homeschoolers who register to be unnecessary. There are literally thousands of curriculums free to expensive for families to choose from. I myself participated in a project creating a free k-12 curriculum to be offered to homeschoolers. I'm not upset so much if the state wants to create this curriculum or frame work and post it to their site but I would like to see the term homeschooling from from that section. This framework may benefit parents of children enrolled in public school and is not something that is needed for homeschoolers.

In conclusion I implore you to vote NO on SB874.

Coral Karrass
Meriden