

February 20, 2019

Dear Members of the Education Committee,

I am writing to **OPPOSE Sec. 17 and Sec. 18 of SB 874 AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT. HOMESCHOOLERS**

I am not a homeschooling parent, but I am a licensed psychotherapist who works with students that are schooled by parents, cooperative education settings or in tutoring centers. There are many social, emotional and academic reasons that parents choose to homeschool their child.

I applaud these parents who dedicate their lives to educating their children in the best setting possible and do not believe in mandates. I ask that you do not allow these sections to move forward. These sections are unnecessary and infringe on **fundamental parental rights** to teach one's children free from government control.

I also do not think that the Common Core curriculum is appropriate for every student. Some students require a unique educational experience designed and targeted to teach to the social, emotional and academic needs of the individual. I have seen many homeschooled students thrive in areas that they did not when they received conventional education.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Giustra Kozek, LPC
Woodbury, Connecticut