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Oppose SB 874

February 27, 2019

Dear Honorable Members of the Connecticut Education Committee,

My name is Jamie Lawrence and I am opposed to SB 874, Sections 17 and 18. SB 874, Sections 17 and 18 are unnecessary intrusion into family privacy and negate parental choice for education.

Regulation is unnecessary and counter-productive. We are currently a no-notice state, with a voluntary option to file a notice of intent. Section 17 would amend 10-184 to require in-person registration of homeschoolers. There is no reason to place this burden on families who statistically are safer than those who are in public school, who are not associated with public school for whatever personal reason and who consistently score higher academically than public school students.

Due to constant bullying/harassment our 7 year old daughter Maddison (8 hard incidents this year alone including being jumped by 6 boys) along with us her parents can't take anymore from public schools. How many meetings can we call for, how many prewritten apology letters can she receive? How many times can we ask her to overlook the bullying from peers and belittling of certain staff members?

When Maddison entered the Norwalk public school system in kindergarten she was academically on a 2nd grade level. She didn't acquire this knowledge in public school - it was obtained at home learning with her parents. She comes home from public school, does her homework in under 3 minutes and requests to learn about a subject that was spoken of but not taught. Maddison has a love of learning that we don't want to lose. If we followed the curriculum for Norwalk public school I doubt our daughter would be as intelligent as she currently is.

For these reasons we feel being mandated with Norwalk Public Schools would be unethical. We made the conscious decision to disassociate with Norwalk Public Schools for a reason. Please remove SB-874 Sections 17 and 18. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Humbly,

Jamie Lawrence