

February 27, 2019

To the Education Committee of Connecticut:

I am writing, as a registered democrat who votes regularly in Connecticut, to express my opposition to S.B. 874.

I am specifically opposed to section 17, which states, "The parent or person having control of a child who provides home instruction to such child shall personally appear annually at the school district office and sign a registration form indicating that such child will be receiving home instruction. For the school year commencing July 1, 2011, and each school year thereafter, the parent or person having control of a child seventeen years of age may consent, as provided in this section, to such child's withdrawal from school."

It appears that this section was amended hastily in order to discriminate against parents who homeschool their children. If all parents or persons having control of a child five years of age and over and under eighteen years of age must be able to show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the public schools, why then must registration with the school district office apply only to those providing home instruction? Why not those who attend private school?

Many parents provide home instruction for their children because the public school system has failed to provide for their child's educational needs. Having to register with the same system that has failed our children has no benefit to and may cause undue stress for our children. There is a common misconception that children will only learn if they are taught in a classroom. This is simply untrue, and for some children being in a classroom can hinder their ability to learn. Most parents who provide home education care deeply for their children and work endlessly to provide them with the best education possible, specifically geared toward each individual child. I would encourage those who want to require registration of home-educated children to research homeschooling and its outcomes prior to changing the law.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Claire Levesque