

My name is Ashli Lucente and I oppose SB 874, Sections 17 and 18. I live in Torrington, CT. I am 37 years old and the mother of four children. I was homeschooled along with my three siblings by my mother. The freedom we have in Connecticut, as far as homeschooling, has always been something I have been proud of and very thankful to enjoy. My siblings and I all graduated from Western Connecticut State University. I got my degree in finance and went on to teach math at a private school and my sister is a RN working in Danbury, CT. One of my brothers is a very accomplished chemistry professor who received his doctorate from Dartmouth College. My other brother got his MIS degree from WCSU and Masters of Science in Information Assurance degree from Norwich University. Now he is finishing and will receive his Juris Doctorate from the University of Connecticut School of Law. We have all been very successful and we never had to be encumbered by any registration or other impositions. I am currently teaching my children with the same curriculum that I was taught with. It is an enormous amount of work, which I enjoy, to homeschool my children. In Connecticut we don't get any rewards or tax benefits for all the work we do in educating our own children. We have, however, been able to enjoy the freedom of not having to hassle with the school district and we have been able to pick and choose our own curriculum. With all the work I do, and all the other homeschool parents that I know, I would think that we deserve a reward for our labor and not another job to add to our list. This law that is being proposed feels like a punishment and an invasion of privacy. There is no need for this law and I feel that it would be a huge stress added to my life and the lives of many others that I know. There is no proof that these requirements are necessary in Connecticut. In fact, it is well known that homeschooling is a much safer and more effective method to educate children. The homeschool parents of Connecticut are, by in large, doing a great job and should be commended and not treated like criminals. Please remove Sections 17 and 18 from SB 874.

Thank you,

Ashli Lucente