

February 28, 2019

Dear Members of the Education Committee,

I would first like to thank you for your service and the tireless efforts that you make to protect the children of Connecticut.

I am writing in opposition to Governor's Bill No. 874, specifically Section 17, making changes to Section 10-184, and Section 18, making changes to Section 10-1600 which have to do with regulating home education. I would like to discuss the blatant discrimination that is taking place in the media regarding parents who provide home education. These parents have been portrayed with all sorts of stereotypes. My understanding that the rationale for these regulations is because there is a perception that parents are abusing their children. There is also another perception that home educated children are being hidden at home all day and having forced instruction. I am writing this letter to refute these stereotypes and inform you that these home educated children are by far surpassing their public school counterparts in education and social emotional intelligence.

I would like to introduce myself. My role currently is a mother and home educator to three amazing children. But before I accepted my current job, I spent years getting my Master's Degree in Psychology and Professional Diploma as a School Psychologist so that I could work with special education and at risk children. I then took on the difficult assignment of working in a public school with at risk youth. I am able to provide you with a very unique perspective. The reason our youth are in crisis in our state and in our country is because children are not getting their social and emotional needs met. This is the current crisis that needs to be addressed at a home, state and national level. The reason I left my job in the public school was to stay home and home educate my children because I saw first hand the crisis that was going on in our public schools.

What has given me hope in these very bleak times in our public schools is meeting other families that home educate and seeing their abilities to step outside the box and meet their children's needs. These families are well-educated, creative, loving, and determined to provide their children with a personalized education. These families are out every day going to parks, museums, libraries, grocery stores, homeschool classes, gymnastics, and dance classes. These families are able to do so in Connecticut with the freedom to educate how they see fit without any government interference. Please do not stifle these parents and their children with a trivial regulation such as the Governor's Bill 874, Sec 17 and 18.

Unfortunately, the public schools are in crisis and your time and resources should be spent on making sure these students needs get met in the classroom that are funded with tax dollars that we all contribute to.

Thank you for your time. Please join me in opposing the Governor's Bill 874, Sec 17 and 18.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Lundy

Guilford