

## **Testimony IN OPPOSITION of SB 874**

To Whom It May Concern,

I write with my concerns and strong opposition for SB 874, particularly sections 17 and 18. As a current homeschool mother of a preschooler, I value the freedoms I have in choosing the means and approaches in educating my child. I take my constitutional right and responsibility seriously. It is an infringement upon those rights and freedoms that the SB 874 bill is proposing.

As CT homeschoolers, we have never had to register or have any type of oversight. That is simply because it is our children and our right to educate and not have to be regulated by the government. We wouldn't ask other groups to register before exercising their God given freedoms afforded to us by The Constitution of the United States. It is ridiculous to require the same of homeschoolers.

Many homeschoolers choose to educate their children at home for many reasons (budget cuts for special needs, bullying, educational standards being set that are an actual impairment to a child's ability to excel, etc). These are not exaggerations of what is happening in the public school system. Some of my reasons for homeschooling are to avoid those situations and because my family strongly believes we are more passionate about our daughter's education. I work hard to ensure that she is getting a quality education and statistics have shown that homeschoolers meet or out perform their public school counterparts. We also believe in teaching her the Bible, saying the Pledge of Allegiance, and learning cursive; things that have been or in the process of being removed from the public school system. We prefer to keep her out of an environment that promotes/indoctrinates ideas that are against our beliefs and how we choose to raise our daughter. She is our responsibility and not the government's.

Homeschooling is not a new concept although it has become more common. There is no need to regulate or give oversight to something that has been doing very well without government interference. I do not understand why this has even been proposed and in the manner that it has regarding these sections. For homeschoolers that may want some type of school involvement, we do have voluntary Notice of Intent and Portfolio Reviews which is sufficient. I am also pretty confident in saying that I speak for many homeschoolers when it comes to this bill and its negative impact on our families. Many homeschool families reside in this state solely for the educational freedoms it permits. Registration and curriculum are unnecessary and unwanted and may cause families that would otherwise stay, to move.

I appreciate you taking the time to read and consider this matter. Please vote NO to SB 874 this Friday, March 1st.

Regards,

Susan Madison  
Torrington, CT