

Dear Legislative Committee Members,

I am writing to oppose proposed bill SB-874--AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT, in its current form, specifically targeting the wording from line 609 to 644.

- 1) On the subject of **parental rights to provide their children with an education of their choosing**, I believe that parents have the fundamental right to direct the education and upbringing of their own children. Parental rights are fundamental to the family and a healthy culture. The first step in recognizing parental rights is respecting and supporting their rightful role and their fundamental rights.

Parents' fundamental rights to direct the upbringing and education of their children have been repeatedly recognized and protected by the United States Supreme Court. When creating the U.S. Department of Education, the United States Congress enacted statutory law that states "parents have the primary responsibility for the education of their children," and that "states, localities, and private institutions have the primary responsibility for supporting that parental role".

Parents are the best protectors of children and have the natural right and duty to care for their children. I move to protect from governmental encroachment on parental authority.

- 2) On the subject of **Freedom to choose the home Education curriculum**, I believe the school district's purview on content of the home-educated child's curriculum is a very dangerous overreach of the state. State schooling does not equate Education and the former is obviously a monumental failed attempt at achieving the latter. It is therefore not for the benefit of society as a whole to unilaterally undermine and lower the home education to the level and rigid standard of state school program.
- 3) Passage of this legislation would put undue pressure and burden on parents and the school system to annually maintain registration with the public school system. No one and no public school system shall file, monitor, control and keep track of the population.

I urge you to oppose this section of the Bill and encourage your colleagues to do same, as it encroaches on fundamental individual and parental rights. That being said, I, and other parents, welcome the opportunity to discuss how to best fulfil our children real education needs and protect parental rights.

I thank you in advance of your consideration,

Respectfully,

Jeff Marquot

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