

## TESTIMONY OF JAMES MARTIN

February 27, 2019

To: Education Committee.

### **OPPOSE: H.B. 874 AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.**

H.B. 874 is an unnecessary intrusion into family privacy. **The proposed additions on pg. 21 Lines 623-627 functions to equate the growing homeschooling movement to abuse and neglect.** A proposal to force families to present themselves and their children to education officials yearly essentially for an annual screening to audit families for potential abuse to their children shows an overwhelming misunderstanding of the majority of homeschool families and their unwavering love for the welfare for their children. **I would like to think that this bill is proposed with good intentions, presumably in response to the actions a few of troubled families that do not represent the majority of Connecticut homeschool families in the slightest.**

Also, one must consider the impacts on a child's perception of their state government if every year for 12 years they are removed from educational activities for a day to submit themselves up for inspection to another authority, presumably the state of Connecticut. Surely a certain level of humiliation or feelings of inadequacy, or disdain could result if their method of learning is treated like regulated contraband.

**Regulation is unnecessary and counter-productive. Existing law recognizes parent's right to the training and upbringing of their children. Also, there are already enough laws address any concerns that might exist.**

Judging by previous efforts of the state to register and regulate anything has resulted in extremely low compliance rates and functions as a first of many steps in the obliteration of individual freedoms.

**The decision for a Family to homeschool their children is made often rooted in religious faith, with great love, definite sacrifice, an unmatched knowledge of their children's individual learning style, and certain additional financial burden,** for which a bill has never been proposed to offset despite taxation supporting local public schools.

With the plethora of easily acknowledged problems spilling out onto our streets from the public schools due to presence of physiological trauma, bullying, violence, adolescent sexual behavior, pregnancy, STDs and the like, I would expect public education officials to propose a bill to perform this same level of scrutiny to each parent of children under their direct supervision.

H.B. 874 begs the question as to what happens to those families whom choose not to comply? I believe the state should be prepared for noncompliance by families and children not under their direct supervision. I believe this bill should be opposed, as a private homeschool, like any other private school need not report to a public school for approval. **The freedom to home educate without outside intrusion is a topic of great passion and this bill should be opposed with the same.**

**Additionally, Lines 655-657 where the state seeks to provide model curriculum to homeschoolers will fall on deaf ears.** Homeschooling parents already have a great network from which to select curriculum that they choose that rightfully deviates from common core initiatives CT has chosen to pursue. I also understand that taxpayers could benefit when the state avoids providing services people don't ask for or need.

**Please vote No on Regulation of Homeschool in H.B. 874.**

Respectfully, James Martin