

February 26, 2019

Thank you for allowing me to submit this written testimony, and thank you for your service to our state and your concern regarding the education of children in Connecticut. I am a mother of three living in Newtown, and I have been homeschooling in the state of Connecticut for over 11 years. I oppose bill SB-874, and I urge you to oppose the portions of the bill that attempt to regulate home education.

I create an individualized curriculum for each one of my children, one that factors in their unique needs, gifts, and passions, and I am grateful that Connecticut has given me the ability to do so thus far without having to jump through unnecessary hoops. No one could possibly have higher standards for my kids' education or a greater commitment to their well-being than my husband and I do as their parents. That is also the case for the hundreds of homeschool parents I know and partner with locally via the homeschool cooperative we participate in as a community.

Our taxpayer dollars should not be spent on overseeing hardworking, law-abiding homeschool families. With Connecticut's economy currently fragile and dwindling when compared to other states, this is not a wise way to use our budget. There is no reason to place the burden of in-person registration on families who statistically are safer than those who are in public school, and consistently score higher academically than public school students.

All three of my children would have been at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012 if it was not for our decision to home educate. Their lives and their childhood were saved and protected by that decision, and I will continue to advocate for our freedom to determine what is best for them as parents.

Please remove all mention of homeschooling from bill SB-874. We love living in Connecticut and have no plans to leave. Thank you for supporting those of us who choose to stay here, and thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jamie Martin

