

CT Legislators,

I am a resident of Middletown, CT and I am opposed to Governor's Bill No. 874, particularly Section 17 (pages 20-21), making changes to Section 10-184, and Section 18 (pages 21-22) for the following reasons:

1. Requesting parents to physically appear is prejudice against home schoolers as parents of publicly educated children are not required to do so.
2. The stated intention of registration is to turn over names of home educating families to child protective services. This is an affront against parent's rights and threatens the safety and cohesiveness of families. Threatening the trauma of faulty separation and trauma when no abuse or neglect is occurring.
3. Home educated children outperform publicly educated children in social adjustment, standardized testing, and college acceptance rates. Home educated children go on more field trips, eat a more well-rounded diet, get more exercise, and they are at a lower risk than publicly educated children to be sexually or physically abused. Home educated children have never been victims of school shootings and they do not experience bullying. Why attempt to regulate something that isn't broken?
4. Freedom to home educate is one of the primary reasons a significant population of upper middle-class families live in this state. These families are highly mobile and can liquidate and leave a state that is already experiencing huge financial struggles and population losses.
5. Home educators do not need resources to be made available to them. There are ample and cutting-edge curriculums and online resources that span all price ranges on the internet and in public libraries. I am concerned that these suggested materials will become mandatory and threaten home educators' rights to choose advanced and esoteric materials of study and insist on a "one-size-fits-all" curriculum to be instituted at home. It is a slippery slope.
6. Why would we put another administrative burden on the state which is already financially struggling?
7. DCF in CT is already overburdened. How will flooding that office with cases of safe and happy children over a question of educational paradigm affect that agencies ability to help children who actually experience neglect and abuse?

Thank you for your consideration. Please vote against Bill no. 879 and any other bill threatening home education freedoms in CT.

Sincerely,

Austin McCaslin
Middletown, CT