

Title: Opposition to SB 874

I am writing to express my concerns and strong opposition to SB874, especially to sections 17 and 18.

Me and my husband have been homeschooling our child for almost three years. We have chosen to homeschool mindfully, considering our lifestyle as self-employed workers and our family values.

We strongly believe that homeschooling provides better socialization and enrichments as well as more academic success. Also, homeschooled kids are much safer in general as well as they are safe from bullying and unnecessary peer pressure.

We know a lot of homeschooling families that could also serve as a good example of academic success just like ours. And none of them ever needed any kind of government control, they have chosen homeschooling because they are dedicated to their children well-being.

Section 17 would amend CT statute 10-184 to require in-person registration of homeschoolers. We believe there is no reason to make homeschooling families jump thru numerous hoops. It has been proven that homeschooling is a good strategy when it comes to education. We organize our learning process based on every child's learning style. We get our children tested when we have a concern about their skills. But not because we have to but because we care about our families and we are there to help out kids find their place in life.

In addition, *Local boards of education are allowed (and technically obligated) to annually enumerate all of the children of school age residing in their districts. There's no need to duplicate this by compelling homeschoolers to appear annually in person.*

Section 18 would amend 10-1600 by "offering" model curriculum to homeschoolers from kindergarten through 4th grade and add "parents who are registered to provide home school instruction" onto a list with local and regional boards of education. There is no need to leash us and make us use a universal curriculum. All information needed (if anyone requires any kind of guidelines) is available online. One of the reasons why families choose homeschooling is - WE BELIEVE IN INDIVIDUALIZED education that brings the best in a child in the most efficient way. It never means that home based education will end up lopsided but different subjects might be rearranged to make sure the child has enough skills and comprehension of previous materials.

A lot of us, homeschoolers, incorporate second language into our homeschooling curriculum raising citizens of the world with more opportunities to communicate with others. Regular curriculum rarely has room for such enrichment.

Both Section 17 and 18 enter the terms "Home instruction" or "Home school" into CT statute for the first time. We have concerns about this part as well. Once they are in the law they can be redefined and manipulated via amendments.

Please, just let us continue doing our job - helping our kids grow and learn how to become their true selves. We, homeschooling families have proven over the years that home based education is a 21st century education.

Best regards,
Gregory McKean and Maria Belova McKean.
Brookfield, CT.