

Testimony for Public Hearing  
Education Committee  
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Governor's Bill No.874 - An Act Concerning Education Initiatives and Services in Connecticut  
To the Education Committee,

My name is Tiara Medina and I am a parent educator. I am against Governor's Bill No. 874, in particular Section 17 and Section 18 (pages 20-22), both of which make changes to Section 10-184 and Section 10-1600. This bill should not include these regulation changes since the current state statutes regarding a parent educator's obligations are clear and concise. Transparency is key in cooperation with parents and the school districts. This is nothing but a power play for those who wish to control the minority (homeschoolers). A parent or legal guardian/caregiver of school aged children attending public school are not obligated to "physically appear" to register their children for school, neither are parents with children in private schools. Legislators requesting that parent educators "physically appear" to register their children with the Department of Education is discrimination and can be considered profiling homeschoolers.

Currently the Office of the Child Advocate has the power to physically walk into anybody's house, at any time, and remove any children with no obligation to provide proof of any wrong doing. They have the legal freedoms needed to protect every child in Connecticut already, regardless of where they are being educated. At the moment the Office of the Child Advocate, and the Department of Children and Families, have every legal right to follow a child from public school to private school, or to a parent led school. What would this discriminatory physical registration of parent educators accomplish that they don't already have the ability to do? It would be like asking every expecting parent to physically be required to register with the Department of Children and Families, just because they will soon be the sole caregivers of a child. That would be preposterous, and a gross overreach of government, just like this proposed amendment to all parent educator's current rights.

On a more personal note, I removed my teenage daughter from public school because of her chronic illnesses, depression and anxiety caused by trauma. To insist that I as a parent educator and having a homeschooler, need to constantly be in contact with the Department of Education to be observed and judged would be detrimental to my daughter's recovery. Our family has dealt with DCF for two different cases with the trauma my daughter went through while in her father's custody. I do not have faith in the public school system nor in DCF in regards to how these situations are handled. My daughter was in danger and not one person cared enough to fully investigate the situation, that is until she tried to commit suicide twice, went into a behavioral facility and still the state decided to give her back to her father. It wasn't until her father was arrested for soliciting a minor in another county, that DCF, and others decided it would be best if she were in my custody. This all happened while she was still in public school. Hence my lack of faith in the intentions of this proposed bill, DCF and the Department of Education. My daughter is exceeding all expectations in academia and much happier being in home instruction.

Furthermore, homeschools do not require "model curricula and frameworks in reading and mathematics" be provided to them by the Department of Education. The Connecticut Department of Education provides access to the Connecticut Core Standards for anyone needing in-depth information and guidelines on state standards, for free through their website. I am concerned that this could be a gateway to mandating curriculum for children educated outside of public school. It is not necessary to include this in this bill, or any new legislation.

Again, I would like to emphasize my opposition to Governor's Bill 874. The change to Section 10-184 is profoundly discriminatory, and to Section 10-1600 unneeded.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

