

2/28/2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to you in-opposition of S.B. 874 that is to be the subject of a public hearing in the State of Connecticut. As a home educator for almost 7 years, this bill will not only infringe on my freedom as a United States citizen to teach my children how I see fit, but it will also limit their learning abilities through stricter regulations and statewide monitoring. I personally believe the wording "redistricting or consolidation of school services and school districts" gives the state permission to dictate how we decide to educate at home and this is unacceptable.

In Sect. 17 Section 10-184, home educators should not be required to register with the state at all, much less in-person in order to indicate home education. This is a violation of our freedom as parents who are trying to provide a loving environment for our children to receive the rich, wholesome education we see fit, per our children's individual personality and learning needs. To require home educators to appear in-person is discriminatory. It is not a law that we must register with the school district and this will only increase state involvement in the education of our children. It has been brought to my knowledge that any information gathered when home educators register, will be used to create lists for DCF, so they may further their agendas. While DCF is helpful in some circumstances when needed, they've become extremely judgmental and hostile towards parents who choose to education their children at home. I oppose any bill that gives DCF access to my personal information and home without probable cause. As a product of the Connecticut Public School system, I have seen first-hand students who have been mistreated on school property by fellow students or staff. My experiences seeing the lack of control public school systems have within their own walls is part of the reason I made the decision to teach my children in a warm, loving environment in our home. We do not need a standardized set of rules to measure a child's success. This will never empower a child. What we as parents need is for educators, legislators and governors to re-evacuate the current status of our state public schools and the broken system of DCF that has contributed to many students who are actually being neglected or abused. Registering home educators will not help DCF do their job better; however, investigating real cases of negligence and abuse will. Their system is broken because those in leadership have been the ones neglecting their basic job requirements and are instead targeting innocent, law-abiding citizens who are freely choosing to provide high quality education at home. Furthermore, this bill will also encourage anyone who is disgruntled against a family for any unrelated reason to write-up a false report with DCF and place the children at-risk for being removed from their home or from the arms of their well-meaning parents. We've seen such false reporting throughout our home educator circles and it is appalling.

Concerning Sect. 18 Section 10-1600; we are choosing to educate our children at home to provide them with a wide-range of educational opportunities that regulated curriculum lacks. This is the entire point of home education! This section of the bill is denying our freedom to teach our children the way they learn. More "model curricula and frameworks" will not guarantee a better education. Modern statistics of public schools and the development of students now enrolled in the state of Connecticut should give you that information very clearly.

More regulations and stricter rules on how and what our children should study at home will not guarantee stable citizens in our future society. We already have Common Core Standards available for free through the website. To actually require us to adhere to those strict standards, and the standards of the subjects listed in this section, will limit many students who learn at their own pace and by their natural learning abilities.

While I appreciate the state's concern, I believe that this bill provides nothing new that will help private or public school but it will infringe on the rights and freedoms of home educators. It seems the wording is hiding a manipulative agenda to enforce stronger regulations that have no evidence of accomplishing a better education for the children of home educators. Please appose this bill in it's entirety and consider the ripple effect it will have on the hearts and minds of the future of our state. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jacy P.
Hartford County