

Testimony regarding SB874

To the member of the Education Committee: I oppose SB874 today in its entirety. I am the proud father of 5 homeschooled children who live in Watertown. This bill is flawed because its sole purpose is to consolidate all methods of education under state control.

There was an initial attempt to say the perpetrator of the Sandy Hook massacre was homeschooled. The report later correctly stated that he was withdrawn from school. There was no follow-up and he fell through the cracks of the education system.

Last year, DCF attempted to tie a tragic death in Hartford to homeschooling. The truth of the matter was that the child was withdrawn from the system. Neither the Hartford schools nor DCF itself protected this boy.

It has been shown that after forcing homeschool families to appear before their local superintendent, this information will then be passed on to DCF. Clearly, the sponsors of SB874 have a solution in search of a problem.

Lastly, I also oppose the concept of forcing (or giving incentives) school districts to merge with bigger ones. Local, neighborhood schools have always served kids best. I am proud that our kids are able to stand side by side with their peers in public, private and charter schools. Connecticut has enough on its plate to address. This bill should either be defeated or withdrawn from committee.

Thank you for your time.  
Christopher Pasquale  
Watertown