

In Opposition - SB 874

To our Connecticut Education Committee and Legislators:

I am writing in opposition to the proposed SB 874, Sections 17 and 18. Specifically, I oppose the language in Section 17 which states that the parent "shall personally appear annually at the school district office and sign a registration form indicating that such child will be receiving home instruction." I feel this is completely unbeneficial for both the homeschooler and the local school district. It is a waste of time and resources for the local school, who should be focusing their attention on the students who are actually enrolled in their school.

Additionally, the language in the proposed bill in Section 17 is an infringement on the rights of the homeschooler. Most homeschooling families receive nothing from their school district; therefore, it is unfair that the district should ask homeschoolers to register, as they have opted out of the school system.

Furthermore, I am also opposed to the language in Section 18 of SB 874, specifically the section which states that the "Department of Education shall approve and make available model curricula and frameworks in reading and mathematics for grades prekindergarten to grade 4, inclusive, for use by . . . parents who are registered to provide home school instruction." Again, homeschool families have opted out of utilizing public school services; there is no valid explanation given as to why homeschooling families should be subject to the Department of Education's curriculum.

In conclusion, Connecticut should be proud of its long history of protecting individuals' right to homeschool with maximum freedom. Legislators should reject this bill based on its discriminatory stance against homeschoolers, which would require them to comply with policies that serve no useful purpose. Additionally, as a taxpayer, I don't feel that cash-strapped school districts should be forced to allocate extra money to providing resources to homeschoolers.

Thank you very much,  
Laura A. Regan