

I am a homeschooling father, and I strongly and emphatically oppose sections 17 and 18 of SB-874. Please remove all mentions of, and language referring to, homeschooling from this bill.

I was homeschooled 9 out of 12 years of my childhood and I can attest to how well it works. As a child my parents were able to teach me in the ways that best worked for my learning style. It prepared me for life and gave me access to more hands on learning, access to the sports of my choosing, and to be an entrepreneur. Now as an adult, I have started two businesses, and can see how homeschooling and life experience prepared me to succeed. I want to give my own children the same opportunity. They both started off attending public school, and my wife and I could see how the system was failing our children. I can now see why my parents homeschooled me. No one knows children better than their parents. No one else in life spends as much time with them or cares for them as much as their parents do. That gives us a distinct advantage when it comes to knowing what is best in terms of their education.

Section 17 of SB-874 is attempting to implement mandatory registration of homeschooling families. This does nothing of benefit to us as a homeschooling family. This puts an additional burden on both the families and on the public school systems that are already struggling to meet their own demands. Our country is based on freedom and liberty, and even our own state constitution leaves how we educate our children up to the individual families of this state. CT statute 10-184 requires parents to educate their children – either through homeschooling them, or sending them to school. This law has been in effect for hundreds of years, and it has worked effectively. Why should we change it now without a good reason? This is an overreach of state government, and is completely unnecessary to impose it upon law-abiding citizens.

Section 18 of SB-874 seeks to give homeschooling parents access to the “model curricula and frameworks” used by the public school. This is unnecessary, and not desired by our community. We have access of hundreds, if not thousands, of educational curricula at our fingertips that are as good, if not better, and more suited for our individual children than what would be offered by the state and local school boards. This would be a waste of taxpayer dollars in a state that is struggling financially.

The state and school system will never love our children the way we do, or seek out their best interests like we would. Parenting is best left to the parents.

I implore you, as legislators, to carefully consider the implications of SB-874. Passing this bill would be extremely detrimental to the homeschooling community, the public school system, parental rights, personal freedom, and Connecticut as a whole. This would be a complete waste of resources and tax dollars to fix a problem that doesn't exist.

Please stand with us for parental rights and freedom! Please strike sections 17 and 18 from this bill, remove all references to homeschooling from this bill, and do not add any amendments which mention or refer to homeschooling to this bill.

Please VOTE NO on SB-874!

Sincerely,

Daniel Saunders
Andover, CT