

TO: Education Committee

RE: SB-874 **AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.**

To Whom It May Concern,

As a homeschooling mother I strongly **OPPOSE** these sections of SB-874:

Sec.17.Section 10-184

1. The state provides no reason, and has no reason to require homeschooled children to be registered with the local school system. Homeschooling is a freedom given to parents, and has no need to require any registration. The state should not be involved in dictating how a homeschooled child should be taught. Registration of homeschooled children is unnecessary tracking of our children, and infringes on my freedom and rights as a parent. It creates undue stress for the homeschooling family and takes focus away from what the homeschooling family does, which is focus on its children 100% and completely.

Sec.18.Section 10-1600

1. Seeking a curriculum that is a success for all students is failing in public schools. There are many different learning styles, and a homeschooled child can be instructed in the learning style that fits him/her best. It is a parents right to instruct their child as they see fit.

Homeschooling is not simply a choice of mine. It is a way of life for my family.

Families today are broken because of the pressure for both parents to work to provide. Parents are stressed out and less focused on their kids. My husband and I make the choice to put family first, always. This means homeschooling for us where our children are constantly nourished, supported, encouraged, and loved by those who know them best.

My children will not be latch key kids. I will not let them spend 40 hours a week or more with individuals who have no idea who my child truly is on a cellular level. I grew my children, I birthed my children, I nourish them daily through one on one attention, focus, and love. I can see my children are thriving especially when provided with opportunities that public school children do not have. I can see they are thriving because they express an interest in something and I can provide them with a lesson, direction, book, event or outing on that topic, that minute, that day. They don't have to sit and be taught what is thought to be useful at their age. They instead get to decide. We can travel to France in the middle of Sept with 3 children and not have to worry about my children falling behind. We can homeschool any hour, of any day, 365 days a year. Our children know we love them and are interested in them, as individuals, as who they are, and not what they do - how they perform on a test, score in school.

There is no reason for the state to be involved with the education of my children, unless I choose it to be that way. There is no reason for the state to be involved with anything concerning mine and my family's bodily and religious freedom, as well as the content of our minds, and hearts.

Our family moved to this great state of CT because of CT being a no notice homeschooling state. It was not an easy move to make, but we did it because of how important our rights are to us. We did it because of how important family and autonomy is to us. My husband and I want to spend decades, a lifetime in this great state with our children and their children, for generations to come. Supporting our fundamental rights is crucial to us staying.

Please DO NOT support this bill, SB-874, or any future ammendments to it that could in anyway erode my constitutional and parental rights. I beseech you as a homeschooling mother and citizen of Connecticut. Any legislation that erodes constitutional or parental rights will be met with great opposition. My support will remain with legislative candidates that support and enhance parental rights, freedoms, and freedom of religion, as stated in our constitution.

Thank you,

Amanda Schaff

Litchfield County