

My name is Aprille Schall. I am a Hamden, CT resident and I oppose Senate Bill 874.

Although I was educated in the public schools and I also taught at the high school level within the public-school system, I am now homeschooling my children. Having seen both sides of the education system, I am aware of the pros and cons of each.

One of the beauties of home education is the ability to tailor lessons to the student. This can happen because of the small class sizes and the parents' knowledge of their children's learning styles, interests, and personalities, all of which are key factors in how students assimilate and retain information. With this knowledge, the parent/educator can select the ideal schedule, curriculum, and field trips to foster and reinforce learning. Let it be said that there are innumerable offerings that cater to homeschoolers so there is no lack of resources or opportunities from which to choose.

If homeschooling were not working, it would make sense to make every effort to fix it. However, statistics show that home education is on the rise¹ and that it is highly successful². Therefore, I see no legitimate need or justification for sections 17 and 18 of SB 874.

In closing, I believe that as Americans, we should value the unique needs and convictions of one another. We should not place restrictions on a citizen's right to offer an alternative yet proven form of education to their children. Existing law recognizes this right of parents and existing laws are already in place to address concerns for child welfare. So please vote "No" on SB 874.

1-"In the ten-year period from 2003 to 2012, the number of American children 5 through 17 years old who were being homeschooled by their parents climbed by 61.8 percent, according to [newly released data](#) from the U.S. Department of Education."

2- "A new study published in *The Journal of College Admission* suggests that **homeschool students** enjoy higher ACT scores, grade point averages and graduation rates compared with other college students."