

February 28, 2019

Dear Representatives,

I'm writing to strongly oppose SB 874, sections 17 & 18 regarding mandatory registration for homeschoolers. Currently the homeschoolers of Connecticut have the freedom to educate our children at home without registration. Homeschoolers have a number of resources in which we utilize to educate each of our children, we do not need model curriculum or guidance from our Public School system. The school system is inundated enough with their own issues and the administrative focuses should remain on improving their own systems for the benefit of the public school students.

Furthermore, I have been informed that the information provided from the registration will be provided to Department of Children and Families in CT (DCF). This is both discriminatory and unnecessary to target a particular group of people because they are trying to provide their children with the best education possible. DCF is already overwhelmed and lacking in the resources to protect children that are being neglected, abused and mistreated that are already apart of their organization or indeed part of the public school system. There are children within the public school system that do not have the protection they need and often their care is overlooked, the focus of DCF should not be to inquire the information of thousands of homeschool families that are innocent and thriving but should use their time to improve their own standards so they can indeed protect the children that need protection.

There is data that states 1.3% of kids who attend public school are abused by their parents but only .0035% of kids who are homeschooled are abused by their parents. Kids who are educated at home are 371 times less likely to be abused by parents than their schooled peers.

Homeschoolers in CT have thrived for years and we have valued the support from our representatives in maintaining our homeschooling freedoms and respectfully ask for your continued support. Please vote again SB874, sections 17 & 18.

Sincerely,

Christina Schulze
Bristol, CT