

Dear Distinguished members of the Education Committee:

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the proposed bill amendment that would require all homeschooling families to register annually with school districts (SB 874 sect. 17 10-184 and 18 10-1600).

I am not a homeschooling parent myself, but I know many parents that do homeschool, including many friends. I care about their rights as parents as much as I do my own.

CT is currently a no-notice state, with a voluntary option to file a notice of intent. Section 17 would amend 10-184 to require in-person registration of homeschoolers. This creates an undue burden on homeschooling families. Home-schooled students are statistically significantly at lower risk of suffering abuse than students that are in the public school systems and consistently score higher academically than public school students.

Asking families to register based on their homeschooling status is overstepping parental freedoms to educate their children. Targeting homeschooling families is discriminatory and a form of profiling that we should not allow.

Furthermore, school systems are already constrained by budgetary limitations. Asking the school districts to add another costly registration process and follow through on compliance with registration will only take money away from educating the currently enrolled students.

There has been a long standing history of success in the homeschool community in CT, without the want or need for state level interference.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Alyssa Siegel-Miles
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