

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to sections 17 and 18 of SB 874. There is no reason given in this bill for why it would be necessary for homeschooling parents to register their children each year with their local school district. As a homeschooling family, we find this unnecessary and unhelpful. There are ample resources available for homeschooling families with curriculum and common core available online.

It may be assumed that the reasoning behind legislating mandatory registration of homeschooled children is to increase child safety. It is my understanding that there are already systems and institutions in place to protect children in our state. The list of mandated reporters in our state already includes all healthcare providers, mental health professionals, sports coaches, law enforcement, and members of clergy.

The Department of Children and Families is in place to receive reports of suspected abuse and investigate as needed. Rather than changing laws regarding homeschooling, it would seem that a better focus would be to increase support for DCF so that they are more able to follow through with due diligence on reports of suspected abuse and working with families in their care. Forcing homeschooling families to register annually is highly unlikely to increase child safety and is an unnecessary burden on both schools and homeschooling families. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Amy Jean Smith-Alvey

New Hartford, CT