

Dear Honorable Members of the Connecticut Education Committee,

I am writing to you with regards to the proposed language addition to Section 17 and Section 18 of SB 874.

I am respectfully requesting that this proposed language addition not be added.

As a taxpayer in the State of Connecticut, I question where the funding will come from to staff this influx of registrants every year. I also question the reference to homeschoolers, only, being asked to register with the district. Why aren't families who choose other forms of education being asked to register with the district? Why would there be a proposition to add more work for the districts at the same time special education funding is proposed to be cut in half?

I am a former public school teacher, as are a lot of homeschooling parents. They say that public school teachers teaching at home are the indicator species for what is happening in public education. Why are so many parents who are trained to teach choosing to stay home and educate their own children? Its not because they don't need the money. Its not because they are trained to teach and are eliminating a 'middle man'. For many like myself, its because they know firsthand how inefficient public education is. They know that the services are diminishing rapidly. They know that children aren't built to sit still for long periods of time. They know that the curriculum is dry and tasteless. As a public school teacher I watched service after service being pulled from my room to support the 'testing grades' in their efforts to prepare for the upcoming state tests. Let me repeat plainly: support was pulled from my lower grade classroom so that we would not be able to teach the way the prescribed curriculum was intended in order for the testing grades to be supported. Testing grades that might not need as much support if they had a solid educational foundation like they would receive in the lower grades. It is for these reasons and more that I, personally, chose to homeschool my own children.

To that end, I do not want nor need to be registered with the school district. I do not use nor am I permitted to use any of the public school services offered to public school students. In addition to paying our public school taxes for our town, my family also pays out of our own pocket for any sports, gym, music, or art classes that my children are interested in. I do not rely on the school district for any support or funding and would not need to be on any lists.

In addition, I choose a curriculum that is well suited to my own children. Indeed, each of my children are different learners and I make accommodations that suit their learning styles. The homeschooling community is large and generous and we share curriculum and ideas. The internet is a wonderful resource as are the public libraries. There is no limit to the support already in place for home educators. I have the freedom and ability to choose what works for each of my own children. I have the freedom to change what doesn't. I do not share the 'one size fits all' mindset of the department of education. Therefore, I do not need a framework prescribed by the state.

As a parent, I have the rights and responsibility to raise my children and educate them as I see fit. I want and know what is best for my children. I resent the infringement on my parental rights. I view Section 17 and Section 18 of SB 874 as the top of a slippery slope to more regulations.

Again, I am respectfully requesting Sections 17 and 18 not be added to SB 874.
Thank you for taking your time to read this.

Dawn Spatta,
Burlington, CT