

February 28th, 2019

Dear Education Committee Members,

It has come to my attention that Governor's Bill No.874 has been raised in your committee: **An Act Concerning Education Initiatives and Services in Connecticut.**

**I have several concerns about this legislation particularly Section 17 (pages 20-21), making changes to Section 10-184, and Section 18 (pages 21-22), making changes to Section 10-1600:**

First of all this proposed legislative change is unnecessary, and unwarranted. Requesting that parent educators "physically appear" to register their children with the Department of Education is blatant discrimination. There is no similar requirement for parents of public school kids or parents who enroll their children in private school. Furthermore most families who choose to homeschool have done so because the current public school curriculum is not the best fit for their child's learning success. Many choose a different learning style to better fit their child's individual needs, so having our local public school review our year of work would be inappropriate and unproductive for both the school and our families.

Secondly It has come to our attention in the form of information directly from a legislator's correspondence that the proposal to have homeschoolers "register" with the public school is really about getting that information so that it can be handed over to DCF. This is a clear violation of parental rights, and gross government overreach. The assumption that "many" parents are abusing the homeschool option is extremely overstated and prejudicial. Not only is this a blatant violation of our privacy its a nonsensical solution. DCF is currently under federal monitor investigation, and has been found to be understaffed and unable to keep up with their current open cases. I don't see how what amounts to nothing more than a witch hunt cross checking every homeschool family is a good use of their time and services. If DCF has an open case they can contact the school district and easily find out if the children in question are enrolled there is no reason to subject innocent families to unnecessary red tape and hurdles based off a few peoples bias against homeschooling.

Lastly parent educators do not require "model curricula and frameworks in reading and mathematics" be provided to them by the Department of

Education. Presently the Connecticut Department of Education provides access to the Connecticut Core Standards for anyone needing in-depth information and guidelines on state standards, for free through their website. I have also attached a open letter addressing the registration aspect of this bill.

In closing I Strongly Feel this legislation is completely inappropriate, and discriminatory I hope you will vote to oppose and kill it.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Stephanie