

TO: Committee on EDUCATION

Subject: OPPOSITION TO RAISED GOVERNOR'S BILL NO. 874
AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.

I am a homeschool Father of two children and I OPPOSE bill 874 and specifically section 17 mandating registration for homeschoolers.

This section has been defined as offering a way to capture data for children in DCF care that would "keep them safe"

The data shows that 1.3% of children who attend school are abused by their parents. Only .0035% of homeschooled children are estimated to also be abused. A homeschooled child is inherently safer and simply less at risk statistically speaking. Homeschoolers are 371 times less likely to be abused in comparison to their conventionally schooled peers.

It is inconceivable to me that parents who have chosen to homeschool based on numerous reasons, and some include the terrible education afforded in the local public school and lack of resources for children with disabilities, are being remanded to registration.

We have alleviated the schools from extra students that they cannot afford all while continuing to be a tax payer funding our local school. We incur plenty of our own costs funding better curriculum and learning structures than available in our schools. We have accepted responsibility for the lives of our children with greater sacrifices to enable a growth factor that could never be reached in local schools.

We are not the problem and in no way should be relegated to any registration or oversight. The government should focus on the problems facing public schools and DCF care of which they are already failing at.

I OPPOSE 874 and section 17 for homeschoolers.

Sincerely,
Seth Swagger
Killingly CT