

TO: Committee on EDUCATION

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

As a Homeschool mother of two children I oppose bill 874 and specifically section 17 mandating registration for Homeschoolers.

I have successfully engaged my children since birth in and an amazing life full of education that is steeped in every aspect of their lives. From prestigious art classes, home tutoring, martial arts, homeschool community events, family field trips and hands on child lead creative play and learning in a healthy environment.

Both of my children have excelled well beyond many of the similar age children that we associate with in social settings including friends whose children attend public school and are of similar age. Many of my friends have long lists of issues that they are dealing with on a regular basis in the schools their children attend. From lack of resources to failing administration along with the constant onslaught of behavioral issues from children that are consuming the teachers, staff, and students.

It is abhorrent to me that with the issues facing the schools that the state has any business requiring me to provide anything in regards to my rights to teach my child as I see fit. These schools couldn't dream of the education that my children are receiving and excelling in. The recommended curriculum in this bill is by far inferior to any homeschooler I know.

Please vote No On this bill. Homeschoolers work harder on their education and learning models with their children then what the state provides, which is exactly why we homeschool. To create regulation to force registration is simply harassment.

We are tax paying citizens whom have chosen to incur higher costs for our children's education sparing the school system the extra burden should be considered a favor.

Sincerely,
Tara Swagger
Killingly CT