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Dear Education Committee Members:

I am writing to kindly ask that you oppose Senate Bill 874.

The amendments proposed in Sections 17 and 18 would significantly restrict the freedom that homeschooling families currently enjoy and do not address a pressing need.

By requiring homeschooling parents to “personally appear annually at the school district office and sign a registration form indicating that such child will be receiving home instruction,” the proposed Section 17 would place an unnecessary burden on parents.

Section 18 would amend Section 10-1600 to make homeschooling families eligible to receive “model curricula and frameworks” approved by the Department of Education for reading and mathematics in grades K-4. However, homeschooling families already have access to state-approved curriculum, thus rendering additional legislative language unnecessary and potentially restrictive.

For the past four years, our family has enjoyed the freedom and privilege of homeschooling our children. We vastly appreciate both (1) the right to choose to homeschool without burdensome criteria and (2) the unique freedom to choose academically excellent, competitive, and faith-based curricula. Senate Bill 874 would restrict these freedoms.

Our family profoundly values the work you do on behalf of Connecticut residents like us. We share your goal of exceptional education for children. Please support and help us successfully homeschool our children by opposing Senate Bill 874.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Zuleika Tharel