

My name is Ashley Tracy. I reside in Milford, CT. I would ask the committee to vote “No on SB 874 sections 17 and 18.” There are 2 specific points I would like to contest.

First, lines 623-627 (section 17): I am a citizen of the United States, as are my children. We (my husband and I) have the natural right to raise our children as we are their parents. In addition, The United States Supreme Court has consistently recognized the freedom to educate our children as the parents’ fundamental, constitutional right. This constitutional right to educate our children is already self-evident. Currently parents must enroll children if they want to be taught at a specific school, be it private or public. I would ask that the committee vote “No on SB 874 section 17” because this bill requires parents to spend time registering for something that is already their right. As way of example, I have a right to freedom of speech, I don’t need to sign up with the government to have my freedom of speech granted to me. It is part of being a US citizen. I also have a responsibility to feed and shelter my children. I don’t need to sign up at a governmental office in order for me to provide food and shelter. As such, a parent’s ability to educate their child is a duty given not only fundamentally, but also within the context of the constitution of the United States. I assume the purpose of this additional request is so that the

government can have more control over situations when the parents are not meeting their responsibilities. However, there are already other laws in place to protect the child if the parent is not meeting their responsibilities, therefore more legislation is NOT needed. Again, please oppose SB 874 Section 17.

Secondly, lines 652-657 (section 18) also warrant a “no” vote for SB 874. Again, we have freedoms through the first amendment, which translate to using a curriculum that WE as parents choose to use to educate our children. The current wording says the K-4 curricula is optional, but if this new verbiage is added, it will be much easier for wording to eventually say “mandatory.” Having a specific curriculum chosen by the government encroaches on the rights of parents.

Again, please vote NO to SB874 sections 17 and 18 as they impinge on the parental rights we have through our United States Constitution to educate our children. No person or Government may violate this right and freedom. Children are the responsibility of the parents, not the Government. Thank you for your time.