

I'm Tabitha Trudeau and I oppose SB 874, Sections 17 and 18.

I have lived in CT nearly 35 years which is all but about 3 years of my life. I was privileged to be homeschooled my entire life. I say "entire life" because my parents taught me how to tie my shoes, eat a balanced diet, and drive a car, as well as how to do algebra and trigonometry, read, and properly use the English language. These last are things we traditionally think of as "education" and yet all of it actually is education and some could argue the first items in the list are more important than the last. The homeschool model worked so well for me that I obtained my Bachelor's degree in Business from home, graduating Summa Cum Laude, from Excelsior College's external degree program. My brother, who was also homeschooled graduated with an Engineering degree from The Citadel, and my second sibling chose not to pursue a college degree.

-Why do we think that a parent can and should teach their child to tie their shoes, and how to drive a car, but they should not be left unsupervised to teach their child to read and do mathematics?

-This is a budget bill. Adding to the work load of our local public schools to process all these registrations will not reduce the budget and does not belong in this bill.

-This amendment of 10-184 to require in-person registration of homechooolers, will place an additional burden on homeschool families. We already pay 4% of our annual income toward our local public education budget in a portion of our property taxes. I have never recieved a day of benefit from this annual expense. My husband completed 4 grades in public school before finishing his education in a private Christian school, and we don't intend our children to ever receive a day public education. On top of the 4% we contribute to the system, we also pay an additional approximate 1+% of our annual income PER CHILD for the materials and classes we use in our homeschool and absorb the lost income of a parent staying home to teach the child(ren). Needing to register annually in order to homeschool our children, just adds to the burden we already face in taking personal responsibility for their education. No one who sends their child to a private school has to go through this step of registering with the public school system.

-The public education available is sub par. That is why we choose to do the work of educating our children ourselves. Why should we be subjected to obtaining approval from an entity we have deemed not fit to do the job? Last summer I met an Indian couple who have emigrated here. They were so appalled by both the culture their child was exposed to in first grade here, as well as the deficient education provided, that after one year in Glastonbury public schools, they withdrew their child, researched homeschooling, and have taken on his education themselves.

In conclusion, I ask that you would remove this section of the proposed bill.

Thank you,
Tabitha Trudeau
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