

Testimony in Opposition to SB 874  
March 1, 2019

I am testifying to urge your opposition to SB 874 because of provisions that would require my large family to register in person as homeschoolers. This is an unnecessary burden and a nuisance. This proposed law would be discriminatory because it does not require other non-publicly schooled families to register, such as families that enroll in private schools. I save my city over \$15,000 every year for each of my children, yet we access no city resources for their education. I purchase all of my own books and curriculum and incur other educational expenses while receiving no special tax breaks or deals from the state or federal government. I do not want the state's help and should not be brought under suspicion merely because I have chosen to home educate.

There are many times my children interact with the broader world, perhaps more than other children in Connecticut. We go on outings to museums, visit relatives, attend community functions and classes. Of course we also interact with doctors, pediatricians, orthodontists and other caregivers. They are also receiving a fine education. I have been homeschooling for 16 years and one of my children is now in college. She received numerous scholarships including the East Mountain Neighborhood Association scholarship from our community. She is in an honors program and is on her college's honor role.

My biggest objection is that this is somehow needed in order to cross-check against DCF lists of suspicious families. How offensive. It will actually cause larger administrative burdens on local schools and DCF - thus taking precious resources away from a system that is already overburdened.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

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