

RE: SB 874 AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.

I adamantly OPPOSE the two suggested amendments to the following sections of SB-874:

It is unjust for the government to force a hand in the rights of parents'/guardians' to choose how to educate our children. Mandating whether a family is homeschooling their child/ren is suspicious step towards over-reach. Freedom must be sternly upheld.

It is government overreach, not to mention a waste of time, effort and finances on both the parents/guardians and state/town officials parts. Why should tax payers have to utilize resources that takes away from already stretched thin resources of our current education systems. Many schools are losing funding and staffing while class sizes grow. With all the mandates that teachers and administrators must tackle, the more responsibility that they are taking on, the less they can utilize to actual truly educate the children to be successful in the evolving world society. I have worked in a school district for 7yrs and I witness how public education really needs a different approach but yet due to limited resources and regulations upon regulations keep increasing and or changing, most districts cannot afford to adjust. Many families are moving their children from public schools to private schools and those that cannot afford it or if it goes against their religious beliefs will work extremely hard to home educate. Parents whom choose to educate their children do not do so lightly. If the aim to limit child abuse then I would say it would be a witch hunt, one that should be done to all families homeschool or/not. With so much mass shootings in school environments why are we harassing and discriminate the homeschool community? For homeschooling families are probably the least lightly to do such harm to themselves let alone their community. Whom, pray tell in their right mind would fund such an endeavor as home visits to all? No tax-payers that's for sure!

As a parent, a good parent at that, and as most homeschooling families that I personally know, put all their heart and soul into the proper education of their children whether it be academic, moral or just learning to be useful and productive citizens.

Requiring personal registration and review of frameworks/curriculum that is not individualized to the individual learner is unproductive and a waste of proper resources. Some families that go to homeschooling are often forced to as the way the framework is set in fact counter-intuitive to the proper learning tools that work for that child. Some students excel in the traditional school environment while others languish.

I can vouch for the latter myself in my own education. I never felt I had the proper resources to teach me in the way I naturally learned. I have an ingrained love of lifelong learning but yet I was only an average student. I know I could have excelled with other methods of learning I had no access to. I see my reflection in my child and can see him going down a similar path if we had him go the traditional path. While he on his own is excelling as it is now. He would probably be labeled as a special needs child. And the research is still quite in the developmental stages on figuring out how to properly educate students labeled as such. Whom but a child's parent be the most vested in their children's future and their success in life?

If at all anything, the public school systems should offer what they can to support the parents, not micromanage them, for the parents pay taxes and by choosing to homeschool it saves on districts funding. In effect homeschool families pay for other kids education with little in return. Please, do not allow these changes to take hold.

So to summarize: OPPOSE SB874

(Pages 21-22)

Sec. 17. Section 10-184 Lines 623 - 627

&

Sec. 18. Section 10-1600 Lines 652 – 657

Please also consider to vote against any future amendments and any future bills that come forth that might effect the education of our beloved homeschooled children.

Thank You for your time in hearing my testimony.

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