

March 11, 2026

**Testimony of Leslie Wolfgang, Director of
Public Policy, Family Institute of Connecticut
in opposition to HB5468, AN ACT
CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF
EQUIVALENT INSTRUCTION**



My name is **Leslie Wolfgang**, and I oppose 5468.

I am the **Director of Public Policy for the Family Institute of Connecticut**. You'll hear from hundreds of homeschool families today, and I know you genuinely appreciate and applaud what they are doing. But I know the bill sponsors are really trying to help the children who would not be here today, who may not be receiving an adequate education, or even those who may be abused.

It is entirely noble, but this bill will not effectively help those children.

Unfortunately, school administrators could be easily hoodwinked, the bill also has giant loopholes regarding trying to detect abuse. It probably won't help these children, but it **is definitely causing a lot of distress for homeschoolers**.

I'm testifying on behalf of many of our members who are feeling this distress.

These families homeschool, at least in part, to **avoid certain teachings in public schools that conflict with their deeply held religious beliefs**, particularly around sexual ethics and gender identity.

If you want to understand the kinds of topics parents are concerned about, take a look at the website of the **State Education Resource Center—SERC**, referenced in line 241 of this bill. Their training and materials emphasize topics such as **gender identity policies, preferred pronouns, boys in girls' sports and bathrooms, and [trauma-informed](#)**

practices designed to create LGBTQIA-affirming school environments.

Good people disagree about these policies. But you should understand the **alarm homeschool parents feel** when they see in this bill that **SERC could be designated as an organization to review a family's "demonstration of equivalent instruction."** (line 241)

Even if SERC is not currently evaluating sexual or health education, families worry about **where those standards might go in the future**. For example, this committee regularly considers proposals to require **comprehensive sex education** as part of mandated curriculum.

SERC is not neutral on gender issues and is basically a mandated reporter to DCF. **DCF has [removed](#) or [threatened to remove](#) children from homes where there was no finding of abuse, but where parents refused to affirm a child's gender identity.**

When parents put those pieces together—teachers trained on these topics, families leaving public schools because of them, homeschooling at great personal sacrifice, and then potentially being reviewed by the same organization with mandated reporting authority—it creates **very real fear**.

Finally, I ask you to review closely the section preventing parents from withdrawing their child to homeschool if they have a **DCF order or are receiving protective services (line 180-181)**. Sometimes homeschooling is the balm needed to help a family stabilize and heal. (line 191) Please consider adding **flexibility** to that provision so that it is possible for these families to withdraw their child under proper monitored conditions to homeschool.