

Name: Anonymous 39 Anonymous 39

Title: Democrat Opposed to SB6

Organization or Agency:

Topic: SB00006 - AAC SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Opposes

Testimony:

I am specifically writing in opposition of section 5 of Committee Bill No. 6. I imagine that you have received a lot of feedback from the conservative homeschool community so I wanted to share my voice as a liberal democrat who homeschools one child and has the other in public school.

I am a huge proponent of public school. But it isn't right for everyone.

After the second time my neurodivergent child was unnecessarily restrained and secluded in elementary school I withdrew him to homeschool. The first time it happened they had me sit in the principal's office and wait while - unbeknownst to me - they physically forced him into solitary confinement for over 20 minutes. The second time I arrived as he was being secluded and I could hear his desperate screams and pleas from the front door. I demanded they release him immediately.

If I forcefully locked my child in a room, DCF would rightfully be contacted. But under this new rule I would be the one investigated by DCF for protecting my child from this abuse at the hands of school.

Meanwhile, I have seen actual abuse by school families go ignored. DCF is overtaxed as it is. I can't imagine that this is a tenable solution.

My homeschooled child is both gifted and learning disabled and schools are simply not set up for this incongruity. He does not fit into any neat boxes. Homeschooling has allowed us to build on his strengths, capitalize on his interests, and remediate his weaknesses all while fostering his curiosity and love of learning.

I understand your desire to protect children especially given some of the recent horrific news stories. However none of those were truly stories of homeschooling gone wrong. DCF involvement did nothing to stop the abuse. Instead I urge you to look at our current school system and explore ways in which it can be a more welcoming and enriching environment for all students.

I don't agree politically with many fellow homeschoolers. But I have yet to meet a homeschool family that wasn't deeply dedicated to their child's education and providing them with a better one than what the state could offer. And this bill will not only effect homeschoolers but anyone who is unhappy with the public school system and wanting to give their children a better education.

I respectfully ask that you consider my perspective when this matter comes before your committee for a vote.

Thank you for your time and for your dedicated service to the people of Connecticut.