

NATIONAL HOME EDUCATION LEGAL DEFENSE, LLC

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Open letter to legislators: Do you know what's really behind the proposal in SB847, Section 17, to have homeschoolers "register" with the public schools?

There appears to be much more going on regarding the "registration" of homeschoolers than meets the eye.

We have information directly from a legislator's correspondence that the proposal to have homeschoolers "register" with the public school is really about getting that information so that it can be handed over to DCF.

See the email below.

You have to ask: Why?

You have to ask a lot of questions about why.

First of all, why wasn't this proposal brought up in a freestanding bill and offered at the beginning of the session?

Why was it hidden inside a 32 page omnibus bill proposed at the last minute?

Could it be that the proponents were trying to hide a larger agenda? An agenda that it would appear involves DCF?

Why didn't the proponents offer an explanation for the proposal, publicly, or to be included as, at least, as a footnote to the bill?

Could it be that the proponents don't want anyone - legislators or the public - to know the true agenda involving DCF for fear of sparking legitimate outrage?

Could it be that is the reason the proposal was written for homeschoolers to "register" with the public school, a middleman, rather than with DCF directly?

Could it be that it makes sense to the proponents to not divulge the true agenda behind the proposal because, undoubtedly, aside from the general public, many legislators might have a real problem mandating "registration" of all homeschoolers, or any other group for that matter, with DCF?

Do you, as legislators, know exactly what the true agenda is behind this proposal?
Shouldn't you find out before you vote on it?

What could that larger agenda be?

Well, there are several possibilities that come to mind.

Once DCF has the information about homeschoolers what would they do with it? What could they do with it?

Could they open an inquiry or investigation into each family? Would they?

Could they implement periodic home visits, with or without an open inquiry or investigation? Would they?

Could they monitor the home, children, parents, and education of the children? Would they?
Could they establish some criteria that homeschoolers have to meet? Would they?

Could they try to intimidate parents into complying with whatever DCF wants? Would they?

Could they tell parents that if they do not cooperate, DCF will file neglect proceedings in court?
Would they?

What is the end result of court proceedings - possible removal of the children from the home and custody.
Could they ask the court to order removal? Would they?

Why would DCF want the information from "registration" of homeschoolers, if they aren't going to use it in some manner?

Why are they hiding what the true agenda is behind "registration" of homeschoolers?

Why are they hiding from their true purposes, not just from the public, but, more importantly, from the rest of the legislature?

We want to know. Shouldn't you want to know also?

Shouldn't we all demand full disclosure before any vote is taken?

NHELD truly hopes you will find out, and not just blindly vote on this seemingly purported "innocuous" proposal.

It is anything but "innocuous", and the proof of that is evident from the manner in which this is being proposed, and from what information is being kept from the public, and from you.

Please do the right thing. Vote No to this proposal. Don't let people with hidden agendas get away with not informing, and being honest with, legislators and with the public.

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From: Rep. Linehan, Liz Liz.Linehan@cga.ct.gov
Subject: Re: SB874 - Concerned Cheshire Resident
Date: Feb 25, 2019 at 10:23:00 PM
To: [REDACTED]

Hello, Ms. [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting me. I'm not quite sure what gave you the impression that I am not working diligently to research the Governor's budget, of which the bill you referenced is a component, since it was unveiled only 5 days ago. As a member of the education committee, I plan to pay close attention at the public hearing this Friday. The public hearing is the very beginning of this process; any bill which moves forward starts with a hearing, where we hear about the effects of implementing the Governor's bill.

However, even before the hearing, I've posed a few questions to many who have reached out to me about the homeschooling portion of the bill, but I haven't had any responses. I'm hoping you can explain something to me in slightly more detail.

I understand that homeschoolers do not want to come to the district office and fill out a form to say you're homeschooling. Is this a convenience issue? Privacy? Recent reports have found that many parents of children who are neglected claim to homeschool but are not actually doing so. I understand that homeschoolers are not neglected — but we know that some neglectful parents abuse the homeschooling option. By registering, if DCF crosschecks families with neglect investigations, they can better serve these kids who actually are being neglected and abused. Does that help to understand why this may bill helpful to DCF and the kids who need intervention? If, after knowing this reasoning, you still believe this is an infringement on your rights, might you have any suggestions on how to achieve the same outcome, but without an objectionable mandate? Sometimes the best ideas come from constituents, so your input is valuable.

Also, this bill says that model curriculum must be made available — it does not

mandate you use it. I'm confused as to why that's a concern.

Thank you for answering my questions, it truly is helpful.

Representative Liz Linehan

Proudly serving Cheshire, Southington, and Wallingford

Sent from my iPhone

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

-Anne Frank

On Feb 25, 2019, at 9:01 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello Mrs. Linehan,

As a Cheshire resident, I'm very concerned to see that you are a member of the Education Committee and are not actively working to defeat Bill SB 874. While there are many alarming measures contained in the bill, the number one is the implementation of requiring in person registration annually for homeschoolers.

The choice of how to educate our children is one of the most fundamental freedoms we are given in Connecticut. Choosing to homeschool is one of many options parents have in Connecticut and it is highly prejudicial to view it as a lesser choice.

Our choice to homeschool is not one we take lightly. How we choose to educate is arguably one of the most important decisions we have made as parents. It is a fluid decision, meaning each year we decide what is best for