Talking points for writing testimony or speaking with your legislator about SB 874:

Identify yourself and state your town. **NOTE:** If the legislator you are contacting happens to represent your town, your opposition will carry additional weight!

**Please vote "NO" on proposed Governor's bill SB874**, specifically vote to ***remove*** sections 17 and 18.

**Section 17** would amend CT statute 10-184 to *require in-person registration* of homechoolers.  This is a dramatic departure from our current situation in which there is a voluntary option to provide a Notice of Intent (not registration) which can be done via mail (not in person).

**Talking points:** Please personalize as much as possible - how will this affect YOU?

\*There is no reason to place this burden on innocent families who statistically are safer than those who are in public school, and consistently score higher academically than public school students.

\* Forcing homeschoolers to start registering is a solution in search of a problem. We have been homeschooling successfully under our current system for 30+ yrs. There is no evidence that it will accomplish anything, and similar legislation in other states provides ample evidence that forced registration could lead to more invasive regulations.

\* Mandatory annual registration, in-person, raises concerns about data collection and invasion of privacy - will their visit be captured on video? What other agencies could have access to the registry?

\*Who will pay the many people needed to register and follow up on thousands of homeschoolers across the state who do not need intervention? Could those resources be better spent serving families that need those services?

\* Why should lawmakers be in the business of voting bills into law that accomplish no identifiable purpose and impose unnecessary burdens and expenses?

**Section 18** would amend 10-16oo by "offering" model curriculum to homeschoolers from kindergarten through 4th grade and add "***parents who are registered to provide home school instruction"*** onto a list with local and regional boards of education.

\*There is no need to incorporate the curriculum into the bill because information is available on the state website now.

\*Homeschoolers have a wealth of curriculum options and resources at their finger tips. Most of us are unlikely to seek curriculum suggestions that are designed to align state standards rather than our own.

\*Reference to home schools in a statute referring to state-approved curriculum standards could muddy the important distinction between state-approved schools and parent-directed homeschools.

\* Offers of free state aligned curriculum could easily turn into required alignment with state standards.

**Section 17 and 18** enter the terms **"Home instruction"** or **"Home school"** into CT statute for the first time. Once they are written into the law, they can be redefined and manipulated via amendments down the road to serve the purpose of almost any legislation.

**Additional resources:**

https://www.teachct.org/ct-law/legislative-news/ - for a review of events leading up to this point.

Homeschool Backgrounder - https://homeschoolingbackgrounder.com/ Research, background information.

www.NHERI.org - Research, statistics and background information.