

Children's Committee

Homeschooling Networking and Communication Forum April 26, 2018

Testimony of TEACH, CT

Good Morning, Representative Urban, Senator Moore, Senator Suzio and Representative Zupkus and members of the Children's Committee.

My name is Pam Lucashu, the Legislative Assistant for TEACH CT. Our acronym stands for The Education Association of Christian Homeschoolers of CT. We have been operating since 1990 to promote and support homeschooling from a Christian worldview. With me today are Donna Person, Vice President of TEACH, and Peter Kamakawiwoole, attorney with the Homeschool Legal Defense Association.

The CT legislature has recognized since **1650** that it is primarily the parents' duty to instruct their children. That concept is found in the first sentence of **Section 10-184** of the statutes. We believe that this duty is not only a **legal one, but a God-given responsibility** found throughout the bible. For example, **Deuteronomy 6 verse 7** commands parents to teach their children. We approach all that we do – including communication with other homeschoolers, the government and the public with these commands in mind.

At our website, teachct.org, you can find information about topics of interest, available resources, and referrals to local and national support groups. The CT State Department of Education links to our website from their homeschool information page. We also communicate about the laws regarding homeschooling and include information about procedures suggested by the State BOE, such as filing a Notice of Intent to homeschool. Our recommendation to comply with the suggested procedures is based on scriptural principles such as those contained in **Romans 13:1-3 and Titus 3:1-2**, which state that we should submit to God's ordained authorities and live peaceable lives.

In addition to our website, we communicate through our facebook page, emails, phone, informational meetings and an annual Capitol Day. We hosted this year's Capitol Day on March 20. This event allows homeschoolers to learn about the legislative process and to meet their legislators. This weekend, we will be co-hosting MassHope, the annual homeschool convention that 1000s of homeschoolers will attend. I'll be giving an update of news in Connecticut including news about this forum.

Given the broad range of topics that might be covered under this Forum's title, "Homeschool Networking and Communication with State Agencies", I have left the remainder of my time today to address any questions you may have.