

March 1, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: HB832 - Establishing Maryland Homeschool Advisory Council

I am AGAINST HB832

The Maryland State Homeschool Advisory Council should be a freestanding, autonomous homeschool council that includes MSDE representatives, not an MSDE council with some homeschoolers. We want to maintain our homeschool freedom that meets the needs of our children.

I don't think we need a law requiring regular communication with MSDE and the homeschool community.

I don't see why HB832 is being rushed to a vote. We need to start at the beginning to have an inclusive conversation with the homeschool community before taking steps to pass a bill. All options have not been thoroughly discussed and the best ideas have not come forth. If a bill is passed, it would be harder to change than to initiate and follow through with comprehensive discussions to attain the best outcome.

I am a homeschooling parent of 6 years to 2 children. I am multilingual and have a masters degree in systems engineering. We have used Montgomery County school services and have worked with the County on the homeschool equivalent of an IEP(individual education plan).

Again, I am AGAINST HB832.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tara Clifton
Rockville, MD