

OPPOSE HB832

Dear members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

I'm writing to strongly oppose HB832. The establishment of a council to advise on matters related to homeschooling is a creation that most homeschoolers, in particular this mom, don't want or need. I've been homeschooling our children for only two years, since they're young, but I myself was homeschooled from kindergarten through eighth grade right here in Maryland.

When given a choice in the tri-state area, my parents chose to move to Maryland entirely because of the friendly homeschooling laws. The atmosphere for homeschoolers is good in Maryland. This bill would change that wonderful dynamic that exists.

Currently, moms and dads can advocate to the Board of Education and the legislature directly, and we do. If this bill were to become law, the council would be where the MDE and legislature would turn for advice and guidance. Although I have no doubt that the moms and dads appointed to the council would mean well, and would be in their own right excellent educators and advocates for their own children and families, they would certainly not be able to encompass the needs and wants of the entire enormous homeschooling community in the state of Maryland. Even if the size of the council were doubled – or even tripled – the council would not and could not represent our needs and wants to the legislature and MDE as well as we could do it ourselves.

We do not need this council. We do not want this council. I personally will invest time and energy into trying to disband this council should it, heaven forbid, be formed. Please vote no on this bad bill.

Sincerely,

Susannah Kipke
311 Eagle Hill Rd
Pasadena, MD 21122