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HB0832 HEARING: OPPOSED

Ways & Means Committee
Honorable Chair Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Vice Chari Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, Members of the Committee

I am writing in opposition to HB0832. As a homeschool parent, I feel that this council of Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) appointees will silence the diverse voices of homeschool families across the state. This partisan council would not be accountable to the homeschool families they are supposed to represent – for example, there is no means to remove council members who act against the wishes of the homeschool community. There is also nothing in the bill to ensure transparency or even accessibility to the homeschool community.

Homeschool families have a voice today – this bill would take away our voices and replace them with those of a politically-appointed “echo chamber.” The virtual meeting on February 22, 2022 made it even more clear that this bill would irreparably harm homeschooling in Maryland. I am adamantly opposed to this attempted government overreach.