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I am strongly opposed to HB832. Maryland already has strong and successful homeschooling regulations in place. MD homeschooling law is one of the reasons I chose to become a professor of education at the University of Maryland, in a state where I could not only homeschool my own children but create Goodloe Learning Community, a homeschool supervisory umbrella that currently guides 1,000 other families in meeting the needs of their children. The proposed legislation does not serve any purpose that would be helpful to homeschoolers.

All homeschoolers should have a voice in homeschooling laws and regulations, not merely have their needs channeled through a select committee that happens to include a few homeschoolers. Homeschoolers are a tremendously diverse group with extremely different views and needs that cannot be accommodated through such a council. I am absolutely convinced that the proposed legislation would not help, and may well harm, homeschoolers' access to educational resources and to the MSDE. If any homeschool regulation changes are sought, ALL homeschoolers in Maryland should be given the opportunity to have their voices heard, perhaps through a large-scale, open survey made available over a period of several months, not through some quick proposal rushed through committees which permits homeschoolers only a period of 6 hours on March 1 to provide feedback. Goodloe Learning Community is joining with other Maryland homeschooling groups to launch a protest that will reach out to homeschoolers in all 50 states, as while education law is state-based, homeschoolers are often forced to unite nationally for defense of our education philosophies. Homeschooling as it is practiced in Maryland is educationally sound, as evidenced by research.