

March 1, 2022

House Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building, Room 131
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401
(sent via electronic submission)

Re: HB0832

Dear Committee Members,

I am a homeschooling parent in Maryland and I oppose HB 0832. This bill is unnecessary. Individual homeschooling families and voluntary grassroots organizations already provide the channels for advocacy that homeschoolers need. The proposed council would drown out those voices in favor of their own government approved positions. The bill was drafted behind closed doors with no input from the wider Maryland homeschool community and is being rushed through the legislative process at the last minute.

There are very real problems in education today, virtually all of them exist in the public school system. Homeschooling is diverse, vibrant, decentralized, this is its strength. Additional government intervention will only harm homeschooling families. I ask you to turn your attention to where it is needed and address the problem of public schools.

This bill's sponsor Delegate Sheila Ruth has claimed repeatedly that the purpose of this bill is to give Maryland Homeschoolers a voice. We already have voices, we are using them to tell Delegate Ruth that we do not want and do not need this bill. She is not listening and I believe that is a preview of things to come if this bill is enacted. Please do not move forward with this bill.

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