Maryland homeschool law is some of the best in the country. We do not need a homeschool advisory council.

The creation of an advisory council would minimize the voices of grassroots homeschool advocates and organizations by creating a bureaucratic entity to be the designated voice on homeschool policy.

Additionally, this bill follows a model in New Hampshire that has a negative track record. New Hampshire is the only state in the United States with a homeschool advisory council created by statute. This council has been more of a detriment to liberty than a voice for it.

Finally, this bill is wholly unnecessary because homeschoolers are not asking for government-funded services. Homeschooling has thrived for decades without government assistance. Instead of creating a new bureaucratic entity to gather information on the needs of homeschool programs, the state should respect homeschooling programs by preserving liberty and avoiding unnecessary regulation.

Preserving the liberties of homeschoolers is the best way to ensure homeschooled students continue to thrive in Maryland. Please preserve homeschoolers' freedoms by opposing this bill.

Aubry Dyakon Homeschool Graduate, Columbia, MD 2008