

Wellspring Christian Family Schools

Formerly Walkersville Christian Family Schools

16827 Sabillasville Rd, Sabillasville, MD 21780; Phone: 301-241-2072

Fax: 301-241-2073; Email: admin@wcfs.edu; wcfs.edu Established 1983

"God forbid that I should forsake the inheritance of my Fathers." (1 Kings 21:3)



March 1, 2022

The Maryland Assembly
House Ways and Means Committee
Honorable Chair, Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbear
Honorable Vice Chair, Delegate Alonzo T. Washington
Members of the Committee

Re: **HB83-Maryland State Homeschool Advisory Council; Unfavorable Testimony**

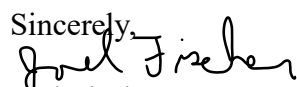
Dear Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

I am the administrator for Wellspring Christian Family Schools. Operating since 1983, Wellspring Christian Family Schools (formerly Walkersville Christian Family Schools) is an educational institution operated by Walkersville Christian Fellowship, Inc. WCFS is recognized by the State of Maryland as a private, K-12 school and homeschool umbrella. Through our Distance Academy, we also assist homeschooling families throughout the country and internationally.

While HB832 is purported to give a greater voice to the homeschooling community in Maryland, it will do just the opposite. Maryland homeschooling families already have numerous channels to express their needs and/or concerns. First, we have local board of education liaisons in every school district who routinely keep in touch with homeschooling parents and homeschool umbrellas. Second, we have numerous state and local homeschool organizations that serve homeschooling families, including homeschool umbrellas like Wellspring. Third, we have direct access to our elected officials who can voice our concerns as their homeschooling constituents whenever needed. Finally, the Maryland State Department of Education already does a wonderful job reaching out to the homeschooling community via information meetings it holds several times each year.

The Maryland homeschooling community already has a broad platform with numerous channels through which we can make our needs known. By transferring that advocacy to a primarily political, state-level entity, the authentic voice of homeschooling families would be reduced from a broad, grass-roots community to a narrow, bureaucratic body perceived as the homeschooling community's "official" mouthpiece.

There are other creative ways to inform and equip the homeschooling community of opportunities for homeschool students or of changes to current homeschool regulations. Unfortunately, the Homeschooling Advisory Council proposed by HB832 is not one of them. For these reasons, I respectfully ask that your committee oppose it.

Sincerely,

Joel Fischer, J.D.

Gary Cox
Superintendent

Becky Wyand
Academic Supervisor

Joel Fischer
Administration

Timothy Shell
Project Manager