

I am a mother to three boys, I homeschool in Anne Arundel County, and I oppose bill HB 832. I object to this bill primarily for these reasons:

1. I do not trust that the Homeschool Advisory Council would accurately represent the opinions of Maryland homeschoolers. Its politically appointed members would choose the other members making it a self-perpetuating body that has no accountability with the people it supposedly represents.
2. The MSDE could use the council as an official representative of the homeschool community and have a legal reason to ignore the myriad and diverse grassroots groups.
3. I would have no recourse if the council acts in a way that jeopardizes my freedoms as a homeschooler.

I would still oppose this bill even if amended because the inefficiencies it seeks to improve would only be exacerbated by a council mandated by the state. It is a solution in search of a problem. Please listen to the voices of the hundreds of homeschoolers who have shared their concerns about this bill and do not establish this Homeschool Advisory Council.

Charisse VanDerwerken