

I am strongly opposed to HB0832!

This bill will move oversight of homeschool families from the local level to an “advisory council” of 16 people at the state level. Four will be political appointees, four will be government officials, and eight will be from the homeschool community. Such a council will not even begin to represent the myriad views of homeschooling families across the entire state of Maryland. It cannot and should not be considered authoritative. However, recommendations from this council may be the catalyst for new homeschool laws and the legislators could cite the recommendations from the homeschool advisory council as the “voice of homeschooling families” in favor of such new laws.

These 16 people are unelected and there is the potential for the abuse of power without recourse from homeschoolers across the state due to the significant influence this council could wield.

My family and I live in Frederick County and representatives from the Frederick County school board currently provide oversight to us and other homeschool families. We have a good working relationship with them and see no need for a change. The current structure allows homeschooling families the freedom to teach in a way that is most effective for them.

Thank You!

Michael L. Piscotti, Jr.