

## **OPPOSE HB-832**

Good afternoon; Madam Chair Atterbeary , Vice Chair Washington, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee.

I urge you to please **vote unfavorably on HB 832**. This bill seeks to create a Homeschool Advisory Council. As a homeschooling family in Maryland for over 10 years, I can tell you that the homeschool community does not want this council.

Homeschooling is very unique for each family and there is no possible way that a council of 16 could accurately represent all the homeschoolers in MD. My family chose homeschooling as the option that works best for our family's needs as does each other homeschooling family. Every homeschooling family executes the facilitation of educating their children in their own way, utilizing a variety of curriculum and approaches to education.

The homeschool community has done this for decades with no financial assistance from the state and without access to public school facilities and that's the way most of us prefer it. We willingly comply with the expectations for us based on the current COMAR. We, the overwhelming majority of homeschoolers, DO NOT want this council as there is no need for it. If we wanted input into the education of our children from partisan appointed representation, we would choose public schooling.

There are topics discussed in public schools at varying ages that my family does not fundamentally agree with and would not teach to our children. There are also things not taught in public schools that we find imperative to teach in our homeschools, therefore we homeschool!!

Creating this council is a gateway to infringing on our God given right to educate our children as we, the parents, see fit. This bill is ANTI-HOMESCHOOLING at its core and will make homeschooling a partisan issue. I urge you to please listen to your homeschooling constituents and vote unfavorable on this legislation.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

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