

## OPPOSE HB832

I am writing to OPPOSE HB832. I have tried repeatedly to contact Delegate Ruth's office only to repeatedly be dismissed. I have no faith that her proposed committee would accurately represent me and my family – especially based on how her office has handled things. I am not being heard now so why on earth should I trust that I'll be heard later?

This bill appoints people to represent homeschooling families and puts us under the Board of Education. I used to work as a teacher in Prince George's County and have seen how poorly the children have it in our public schools. I have watched kids who can't even write their names get pushed through the machine because "holding them back wouldn't be fair." I watched as my students went without a teacher when I left for maternity leave. These kids were legally entitled to their services but no teacher was made available for them so they were left to flounder in main stream classrooms. Most of the kids graduating in Baltimore can't read. Buildings lack heat, air conditioning, and locks on the bathroom stalls.

Homeschoolers pull their children from our public school districts for a reason – the schools are failing their children. Instead of spending money to add more oversight to homeschooling (which Delegate Ruth insists this will not do but, again, due to her lack of transparency and willingness to talk to homeschool families, I don't have any faith that what she says is true), use the money to fix moldy school buildings (Templeton in Prince George's County desperately needs intervention due to mold), or to get children who aren't being properly serviced the services they are legally entitled to. Ensure that public school children who are being shoved along are instead held back and given the help they need instead. Why are you passing them along the conveyor belt instead of admitting our schools are failing and need help? Homeschoolers almost always outperform public school students on assessments. Leave our community alone and oppose this bill.

As Delegate Ruth said in a recent tweet, "Respectfully, you don't speak for all homeschoolers. I am listening to all voices..." Delegate Ruth, if this is true, hear mine. YOU do not speak for all homeschoolers. YOUR COMMITTEE will not speak for all homeschoolers. WITHDRAW this bill. To the others, please OPPOSE HB832. Homeschoolers do not want a centralized committee making decisions for them. We would rather depend on ourselves.

Thank you,

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