

February 27, 2022

I am opposed to HB 0832 Education – Maryland Homeschool Advisory Council – Establishment.

The community of parents who have chosen to dedicate the time and resources necessary to provide the best customized education for their children through homeschooling is quite diverse. Yet HB 0832 would establish an advisory council in such a way as to virtually guarantee a lack of diverse points of view from its inception. The council consists of:

- THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT
- THE SECRETARY OF THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
- TWO INDIVIDUALS... APPOINTED BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT
- Two members APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
- Two members APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
- Eight members SELECTED BY THE COUNCIL

The bill says that EACH MEMBER SHALL... REPRESENT THE DIVERSITY OF HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES THAT EXIST THROUGHOUT THE STATE, INCLUDING DIVERSITY OF HOMESCHOOL PHILOSOPHY, AGE, RELIGION, RACE, ETHNICITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND GENDER IDENTITY. And yet the council is composed of what amounts to political appointees, who in turn, appoint more members of the council. This is a recipe for uniformity and exclusivity.

Thank you,

Teresa D. Robidoux