

March 1, 2022
12:27 P.M.

Dear Maryland Ways and Means Committee,

RE: Opposition to HB0832

The homeschooling community includes a broad and diverse coalition of parents and organizations united in purpose to preserve the liberty to homeschool and provide individualized instruction tailored to their own children. The proposed advisory council in HB0832 is not needed nor is it necessary to maintain this liberty.

This bill would create a quasi-official source for information on homeschooling, which would minimize the effectiveness of grassroots homeschool groups and individual advocates. It would harm the diversity of views, approaches and philosophies that have historically been a strength of the many homeschool support organizations, co-ops, umbrellas, and tutorials in Maryland.

Homeschooling families have thrived for decades without government assistance. Given that there is no tuition tax credit for parents investing and sacrificing to educate their children, there is absolutely no need for more government interference or oversight than what COMAR regulations already provide.

The consequence for such an approach has already been demonstrated in New Hampshire; as it is the only state in the United States with a homeschool advisory council. The realities of the implementation of more oversight and interference curtails the freedoms families have enjoyed and have a right to have in Maryland.

In summary, I oppose House Bill 0832 for the following reasons:

- It would minimize the voices of grassroots homeschool advocates and organizations by creating a bureaucratic entity to be the designated voice on homeschool policy.
- It follows a model in New Hampshire that does not fit the Maryland historic approach to educational freedom.
- It is unnecessary because homeschoolers are not asking for government-funded services.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kline