

March 1, 2022

To the Maryland General Assembly,

As a parent who has been homeschooling for almost 20 years, I strongly oppose House bill 832. Current MD homeschooling laws have enabled homeschoolers to educate their children successfully at home. There is no need for an advisory council, and certainly not one made of members who are appointed by state delegates.

For years, Maryland homeschoolers have been able to advocate for themselves. An appointed advisory council that goes on to choose its own members is barely democratic. Although it claims to be a diverse group, it will not be representative of the Maryland homeschooling community at large. If anything, the members of the advisory council should be voted in by all members of the homeschooling community. However, an advisory council is not needed at all, and would just be a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Furthermore, House bill 832 also does not require the council to be transparent or accessible to Maryland homeschoolers. Nor does it give homeschoolers the ability to remove council members who place unnecessary or unfair restrictions on homeschoolers.

Bill 832 is, in fact, very unfair for the majority of Maryland homeschoolers, who do not want or need an advisory board composed of appointed members.

Please do not pass this bill as it poses a threat to the freedom of Maryland homeschoolers to choose what is best for their families.

Thank you so much,
Mary Cooney