

To: Ways and Means Committee

From – Sonya McCallum-Bakalis, homeschooling parent

Re: HB832

Date: March 1, 2022

After reading over HB832 I have questions and concerns regarding it.

1 – The Maryland State Department of Education is in a better position to do what they like to homeschoolers and make homeschooling families voices unheard. How does Maryland State Department of Education plan to communicate with the council in good faith and not one's own agenda?

2 - I am also concern with homeschoolers having grassroots homeschoolers to advocate for homeschoolers. How does this help grassroot homeschoolers who want to be heard even if the volunteers will not listen? Again, how do we know that the council will be acting in good faith and not one's own agenda?

3= How are the volunteers going to communicate with homeschoolers throughout the state of Maryland?

4- There is nothing in this bill to make other homeschoolers feel safe homeschooling, sense voting happens withing the council?

5- How will information be shared and how will we know about any discussions that will take place?

6 - If majority of homeschoolers disagree with a said bill, do we have veto power? What actions can we take?

Thank you

Sonya McCallum-Bakalis