

**HB 0832 OPPOSE**

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**HB 0832 OPPOSE**

**Maryland Homeschool Advisory Council Establishment**

House of Delegates Ways and Means Committee

Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 1:00pm

Dear Chair Atterbeary Vice Chair Washington and members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Emily Francis. I live in Prince George's County and have school-aged children who were previously in Prince George's County Public Schools and whom I have been homeschooling since 2018. I am also a former community college professor who has worked full-time both at Howard Community College and Prince George's Community College. I have seen many angles of the educational sphere in Maryland and I am delighted to share with the House Ways and Means Committee that homeschoolers in Maryland are currently thriving!

My children and I are active in the many educational and community-building opportunities that currently exist for homeschoolers throughout Maryland including a Classical Conversations Tutorial, Greenbelt Homeschoolers, Cheverly STEM education center, the Traditional Learning Community Center, Charlotte Mason Maryland, Greenbelt and PG County Parks and Recreation programming, and other classes and meet-ups. Homeschoolers are a diverse group who homeschool for many different reasons, but all of us are committed to our children and are resourceful in meeting our children's unique needs. We do all this without assistance from the Maryland Department of Education and do not require additional intervention such as an Advisory Council for the State Board of Education.

I know hundreds of homeschoolers in Maryland and vanishingly few are supportive of having a homeschool advisory council, let alone one comprised of political appointees. We do not feel that such a committee could possibly represent all of us. Part of what makes the homeschooling community so vibrant is that every homeschooling family is unique with unique experiences and educational needs. A council cannot possibly represent the diversity of homeschooling families, because every one of us is unique. Thus, any council formed would necessarily serve to

diminish and disempower some voices in favor of others. As homeschoolers, we want to continue to advocate for ourselves, without an intermediary council.

Please do not create new problems for our community and please do not raise some voices over others.

We/I urge an unfavorable report on HB 0832.

Sincerely,

Emily Francis

Greenbelt, MD 20770

District 20

UNFAVORABLE / OPPOSE for HB 0832