

Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Delegate Alonzo Washington and members of the Ways & Means Committee,

Please vote no on HB 832.

Maryland's existing homeschooling laws are some of the best homeschooling laws in *the entire country!* I know of a number of families that chose Maryland over neighboring states because of our fantastic homeschooling environment.

The Maryland homeschooling community is very diverse, and the listed members of the council established by HB 832 fail to accurately and adequately represent the community.

The council gives far too much representation to institutional educators - leaders within the very system many homeschoolers have fled because it failed to serve their families' unique needs. These appointments are being made by an inherently political system that has turned public schools into a political battleground. For years, Maryland homeschoolers have been free from the burdens of bureaucracy and politicization - and we are thriving!

There has been an influx of new homeschoolers - but our proactive, caring and attentive community has welcomed and mentored them. Our County Board of Education employees are wonderful - providing families with resources and answering questions promptly. Our public libraries offer many free services and resources to homeschoolers. We are a community of self-learners and doers. We enthusiastically welcome new-comers and eagerly trade information, methods, and resources.

As you have seen this past week, our community is also very capable of tracking, reading, understanding, organizing, and advocating for ourselves when it comes to legislative matters. We do not need nor do we wish to outsource this responsibility.

We do not have any needs that can be met by the state of Maryland. We do not require additional services, representation, or oversight - nor do we want the burdensome regulations that inevitably come from such councils.

Please vote no on HB 832.

Thank you,

Krystal Woodworth