

March 1, 2022

To: Delegate Sheila Ruth and the Members of the House Ways and Means Committee  
Maryland General Assembly

Re: HB 0832 Homeschool Advisory Council – Establishment

Dear Delegate Ruth and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to the above-named bill. As a former homeschooler (I taught my five children from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade; a total of 24 years of homeschooling), I know that the best way for the homeschooling community to work with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is through direct contact, whether that is through the attendance of homeschool advocates at MSDE meetings or through the re-starting of MSDE/homeschool liaison meetings or some other method where the MSDE is available to all homeschoolers, not only a select few. To essentially create a committee comprised of government employees and only a few homeschool advocates, a committee that is not answerable in any way to the homeschooling community at large, is a threat to the homeschooling freedoms we have in this state.

I also object to the way this bill is being rushed along. That gives it the appearance of the State of Maryland trying to “pull one over” on homeschoolers and those who support the right to homeschool. If this advisory council is truly beneficial, it will survive the scrutiny of stepping back and discussing it as an idea for another year. And during that year, other methods for achieving a good relationship between the MSDE and the Maryland homeschooling community can also be discussed.

In summary, I urge you to please give House Bill 832 an unfavorable vote.

Thank you,



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