

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair  
and The Members of The Ways and Means Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Annapolis, MD

RE: HB 832 – Education- Maryland Home School Council- Establishment- **OPPOSE**

Dear Chair, Atterbeary and Members of The Committee,

HB 832 would create an unnecessary government body to potentially regulate and interfere with Maryland homeschooling. For the following reasons, I oppose HB 832 and urge you to do the same:

- The stated goal of this legislation to “gather information on the needs of homeschool parents...and advise” public officials, could lead to destructive and inappropriate regulation and oversight imposed upon parents who deliberately seek to independently educate their children without such oversight.
- Formation of the proposed council is unnecessary and redundant to the oversight already imposed on Maryland parents, who must have their work reviewed by a state appointed professional or umbrella group twice per calendar year.
- The legislation seeks to assemble a council with representatives throughout the state, combining members of rural counties with larger counties; Eastern Shore counties would have only one representative.
- The legislation includes “diverse and inclusion” language seeking to “represent the diversity of homeschool families” when, in fact, those diverse families are already free to select and implement their own curricula and teach according to their own broadly diverse experiences, beliefs and value systems. There is no need for a separate council to oversee “diversity and inclusion” for homeschoolers in the state of Maryland. Formation of such council could, in fact, lead to the opposite result: the inappropriate regulation and imposition of a uniform set of standards on broadly diverse families seeking to educate their children with autonomy.

Hence, I urge you to vote an UNFAVORABLE return against HB 832- Education- Maryland Homeschool Council- Establishment.

Thank you for your time,

Sarah Price (ACRWC)  
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