

I ask that you give HB737 an UNFAVORABLE report.

I've been homeschooling since 2007, and founded and have helped run the largest Facebook group for homeschoolers in Maryland since 2011 (currently at 13.7 thousand members.) OVERWHELMINGLY, homeschooling families have indicated that they don't want for tax dollars to be used to fund homeschool curriculum. We don't want for the state to then decide to enact further restrictions on our homeschooling choices.

And why should my tax dollars be used to pay for any religious curriculum that teaches things I strongly disagree with, including bias against protected groups?

I fully support my tax dollars being used for public schools, even though I have my reasons for not enrolling my children in them. Public schools have significant oversight, and the curriculum is designed by experts and expected to conform to things like the separation of church and state. People can, and should continue to be able to, homeschool their children as they choose, but I don't want to pay for it.

There are other means of making homeschooling more financially accessible to people who want to homeschool - that also benefit others in the state. Not surprisingly, those means are rarely supported by the very people who are cosponsoring this bill - including the ones who homeschool. That makes me believe that this is less about the children, and more about forcing citizens to fund religion.

Allowing parents to move their children from failing schools to different public schools would not be opposed by the homeschooling community.

I think that ALL children, regardless of school status, should have access to therapies and educational services, but HB737 brings far too much of a risk of the state deciding how we educate our children.

Please give HB737 an Unfavorable report.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Debi Jasen
1127 Holmespun Drive
Pasadena, MD 21122