

OPPOSE BILL HB832

February 28, 2022

Mr. Robert C. Buckey, Commissioner

324 Hemsley Drive

Queenstown, MD 21658

Dear Ways and Means Committee Members,

Our family and I have been a homeschooling family for over 10 years and are writing to oppose Maryland House Bill HB832:

Education - Maryland Homeschool Advisory Council - Establishment.

We oppose Bill HB832 and request that it be voted unfavorably for the following reasons.....

* Bill HB832 was created without the consideration of the homeschool community. We believe it is unfair to introduce a Bill which will affect our rights to educate our children.

* Bill HB832 allows for a vast amount of power to a small number of (politically) appointed representatives. It also allows for no oversight of the Maryland Homeschool Advisory Council. The members are politically appointed and upon leaving will choose their successor. We believe these "representatives" for the homeschool community will be subject to the political motivation and pressure of the State School Board and/or other government agencies

* Homeschool families receive no government funding. We teach at our own expense because we desire to educate our children and prepare them for college without the influence of the educational system. or government mandates.

* Similar Homeschool Advisory Committees in other states have caused difficulty for homeschool families.

* Delegate Ruth has stated that this Bill will give homeschoolers a voice, but it seems that it is designed to place us under (state) government authority. We believe Bill HB832 is an overreach of government power in the disguise of an "Advisory Council".

The homeschool community, have reached out to Delegate Ruth to oppose Bill HB832. Along with a petition of opposition containing over 2,300 signatures there has also been more than 20 Maryland state Delegates who have signed a letter opposing Bill HB832. If Delegate Ruth and the Ways and Means Committee truly desires to give the Maryland homeschool community a voice, then we respectfully request that you listen to us and vote unfavorably for Bill HB832.

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert C. Buckey, Commissioner

Mr. Robert C. Buckey, Commissioner

Phone: 240-375-8848

Email: rbuckey@verizon.net