

House Bill 553 - UNFAVORABLE
Judiciary Committee

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Judiciary Committee;

Please give House Bill 553, regarding "parental rights," an Unfavorable report.

Homeschooling is already perfectly legal in the state of Maryland. In 2011, I founded the largest Facebook group for homeschoolers in Maryland. There are over 15,000 members of the group, and I can tell you that they're not all married, middle-class stay-at-home moms. Some are single, some work from home, some work outside of the home, and some are poor. Some are even grandparents and fathers. People who want to have control over their children's educations need only find a way to homeschool. There are plenty of people with experience who can help them find a way to make it work.

Don't want to homeschool? Private schools that are aligned with your values are an option! From what I'm told, you don't have to be rich to put your kids in private schools. There are scholarships!

It's unacceptable to expect to have tremendous control over your children's education at public schools. When you put your children in public school, you are trusting them to educate your children according to the decisions that government bodies have already made. If you disagree with the ways that the public schools do things, then pull your kids out. It's that simple. Don't like Queer people? There are private schools for that. There are homeschool tutorials and co-ops for rightwing evangelical types. You no longer have to worry about your children being tainted by anyone in the LGBTQ+ community who is safe enough in their homes to be out of the closet. Since Trump, homeschoolers have become excellent at segregating ourselves according to our values.

I urge you to give HB 553 an Unfavorable report.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD