

I am a parent of three children currently enrolled in Maryland public schools. My spouse and I make a great effort to be very involved in their education and it is a priority for our family. I represent thousands of parents from across the state who also care deeply about the education of their children and choose to enroll them in public schools.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB0948 Children – Parental Rights – Educational Rights. This bill is important to pass. The law must establish that parents are the primary educators of their children and bear the full privilege and responsibility of that position. Maryland schools need this foundational guidance to ensure full partnership with parents.

I have worked hard to engage in positive relationships with teachers and administrators at the schools where my children attend. Still, I am not regularly informed of what my children are taught and what they are reading. This excludes me from participating in their education. Instead, I want trusting relationships with teachers and the ability to opt in and out of content to ensure that my child's needs are met. Additionally, I have been told by some community members that I should homeschool my children because my belief system does not belong in public school. That is not inclusive and is a false interpretation of the purpose of public school.

This bill accurately represents the importance of including parents in the process of educating children. If enacted, it will help to improve learning outcomes for Maryland students. Please return a favorable report on SB0948.

Thank you,
Allison Rizzo
Frederick, Maryland