

My name is Kristen Dorn, and I am a Christian mother who has intentionally chosen private education for my children because I believe in the freedom to raise and educate them according to our faith and values.

I stand in opposition to House Bill 649 because, while it is presented as promoting fairness, it significantly expands government authority into private and religious schools in ways that concern me deeply.

This bill gives the Commission on Civil Rights broad power to investigate, regulate, and even bring legal action against private schools . That includes the ability for complaints to lead to civil lawsuits, damages, and ongoing oversight. This is not a small adjustment—it is a major shift in who controls private education.

As a parent, I did not choose private school to invite more state control. I chose it for freedom—freedom of faith, freedom of values, and freedom of conscience.

While the bill claims to exempt certain religious practices, it still subjects private schools to vague and expansive standards around discrimination, including areas like gender identity and sexual orientation . These are deeply sensitive and often faith-based issues. This opens the door for government bodies to interpret and challenge religious convictions.

That is where the overreach lies.

This bill creates:

- Expanded state enforcement power over private institutions
- A new pathway for lawsuits against schools
- Increased pressure on schools to conform to government-defined standards

Even if unintended, the effect is clear: it chips away at the independence of private and faith-based education.

As a Christian mother, I believe parents—not the government—are ultimately responsible for the upbringing and education of their children.

We all agree that no child should face unjust treatment. But we already have federal protections in place. This bill goes beyond protection—it moves into control.

I respectfully urge you to reject this bill and protect the rights of families, faith-based schools, and the freedom to educate our children according to our deeply held beliefs.

Thank you.

Kristen Dorn

Kristen.dorn@gmail.com