

Members of the House Committee on Education
State of Rhode Island General Assembly

May 16, 2026

Testimony in OPPOSITION to H8531

Dear Members of the House Committee on Education,

I am a parent who has been homeschooling for 12 years and has 8 more to go. I also served as the President of ENRICHri, the largest secular homeschooling organization in RI for over 6 years. I am writing to you today in **opposition to H8531**.

I am opposed to this bill because Rhode Island's current homeschool law already works and does not need any additional regulation. All the concerns this bill tries to handle already exist. The child protection laws apply to ALL Rhode Island families already, including homeschoolers. There is no need to single us out or to create redundancy.

This bill has vague and subjective language, such as "competency," "capacity," and "best interests." The bill does not clearly explain what standards would be used. It gives the school committee no clarity on how to evaluate parents or make determinations. Without clearly defined criteria, homeschooling families are very concerned that decisions could become highly subjective and inconsistently applied.

Again, what we have already works - with clarity and consistency. Why add complications?

Parents should remain the primary decision-makers in their children's education!

I urge you to vote in opposition to H8531.

Thank you for your time,

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