

Amelia Coburn, homeschool graduate and parent  
I am writing to **oppose** bill H8531

We moved to Rhode Island very recently, I was initially pleased to know that the government had fairly reasonable laws in regards to homeschooling. Having graduated from being homeschooled I can only be grateful for the experience myself. And now as a parent, I take my responsibility towards my children seriously knowing it is MY job to make sure they are safe, educated and become good and responsible citizens of our great country. Therefore, this proposed bill causes me a lot of concern. As my child's parent and guardian, I should not be subject to the school district's opinion on whether not they think I can educate my children. How can the school districts possibly measure whether a parent can sufficiently educate their child just as well as a teacher in their school? The truth is, teachers have over a dozen kids to try and teach at once, I am able to give my child the attention and help they need to not only learn but thrive. I wonder how many kids actually do their most valuable learning at home doing homework with a parent instead of actually in school? Here are some statistics from the National Home Education Research Institute:

### Academic Performance of Homeschooled Students

The home-educated typically score 15 to 25 percentile points above public-school students on standardized academic achievement tests ([Ray, 2010](#), [2015](#), [2017](#); Ray & Hoelzle, 2024). (The public school average is roughly the 50th percentile; scores range from 1 to 99.)

- A 2015 study found Black homeschool students to be scoring 23 to 42 percentile points above Black public school students ([Ray, 2015](#)).
- 78% of peer-reviewed studies on academic achievement show homeschool students perform statistically significantly better than those in institutional schools ([Ray, 2017](#))
- Homeschool students score above average on achievement tests regardless of their parents' level of formal education or their family's household income. ([Ray, 2013](#), [2010](#))
- Whether homeschool parents were ever certified teachers is not notably related to their children's academic achievement.
- Degree of state control and regulation of homeschooling is not related to academic achievement. ([Ray, 2013](#), [2010](#))
- Home-educated students typically score above average on the SAT and ACT tests that colleges consider for admissions. ([Read more here.](#))
- Homeschool students are increasingly being actively recruited by colleges.

The current regulations for homeschooling are sufficient for enabling districts to keep track of students. This bill would not only add unnecessary regulation but would override parent's choice for their child with a school board's opinion.

I urge the committee to **respect parental rights** and **OPPOSE bill H8531**.

Thank you.