

## Lisa Cataldi

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**From:** Ashley Jutras <ashleymjtras@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2026 3:48 PM  
**To:** House Education Committee  
**Subject:** H8531 OPPOSED

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Dear Lisa Cataldi,

I am writing to respectfully urge you to oppose H8531.

While I understand the importance of ensuring children receive a quality education, this bill gives school committees overly broad authority to deny or delay homeschooling plans based on vague and subjective standards. Many Rhode Island families responsibly homeschool their children and should not be treated as though they must prove their competency or intentions before exercising their educational rights.

As a homeschooling parent myself, I have personally seen the benefits of individualized education. My daughter, who would currently be in first grade, is now confidently reading and working on second grade material. Homeschooling has allowed her to learn at her own pace, thrive academically, and develop confidence in her abilities. Experiences like ours demonstrate that parents are fully capable of providing successful educational environments for their children.

I am especially concerned that H8531 could create unnecessary barriers for families by:

- Allowing subjective decisions about a parent's "capacity" or "competency"
- Delaying homeschooling approval while requiring continued public school enrollment
- Limiting meaningful appeal options for families
- Treating families as guilty before any concerns are proven

Parents know their children best, and homeschooling has been a successful and lawful educational option in Rhode Island for many years. This bill risks undermining parental rights and placing excessive discretion in the hands of local school committees.

I respectfully ask you to vote against H8531 and protect the rights of Rhode Island families to choose the educational path that works best for their children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ashley Jutras  
Town: Charlestown