

## Lisa Cataldi

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**From:** Bethany Carnevale <bethany.carnevale@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2026 3:56 PM  
**To:** House Education Committee  
**Cc:** jcarnevale6588@gmail.com  
**Subject:** H8531 OPPOSED

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Dear members of the committee,

We are writing to express our opposition to the proposed mandate, H8531. We are a family of six with children that began with private preschool, entered public kindergarten and have homeschooled this past three years. My husband and I are native Rhode Islanders that continued our education in RI through to doctorate degrees and have stayed actively involved in our RI community throughout all these years.

Our deepest concern with the proposed mandate is it's infringement upon a parent's right to educate their child as they see most fit. When our oldest child was in public school kindergarten, we chose to keep her home many days largely due to her extreme fatigue with the long days and need for rest after family and community events. These days home also served as our chance to practice homeschooling. We read countless stories, did science projects, went on engaging trips in the community and practiced math facts in a relaxed fun way which always kept her excelling on progress reports, with truancy being the teacher's only concern. Had this proposed mandate been in place, my family would have experienced undue stress and scrutiny to prove that we are fit to educate our children due to this kindergarten truancy. Very likely deterring us entirely from undergoing this immense challenge that was all very foreign to us at the time. This would have been a terrible loss, as we would have never known just how wonderful an experience this would be for each one of us. Homeschooling has been our greatest joy and the pursuit of that happiness should not be infringed upon in our great state founded in the name of freedom.

Thank you for your consideration,

The Carnevale Family  
Joseph, Bethany, Ella, Rose, Joey and Charlie  
Johnston, RI  
(401) 829-3556