

To: House Education Committee Clerk, Lisa Cataldi and Whom it may concern,

I respectfully oppose H8531. As a full-time working father, homeschooling has provided our family with stability, safety, and an educational environment that truly meets our children's needs.

One of the greatest benefits of homeschooling is knowing our children are safe at home with their mother and grandmothers while receiving a quality education in a loving environment. It allows our family to remain close and gives our children the opportunity to grow up together and learn side by side throughout their school years.

Our children thrive through hands-on learning, outdoor experiences, and learning by doing rather than spending long hours sitting in a traditional classroom. Homeschooling gives them the freedom to explore their interests in meaningful ways while still making strong academic progress.

Socialization has also been a positive part of our homeschool experience. Our children regularly participate in community meetups, field trips, homeschool co-ops, and activities with other children. They are building friendships with kids of different ages and learning how to interact in real-world settings, not just inside a classroom.

Homeschooling has also allowed our children to pursue interests like jiu jitsu and dance, helping them build confidence, discipline, and social connections in ways that fit their individual strengths and personalities.

**Another concern we have with H8531 is that much of the wording feels too vague and open to interpretation. Terms that are not clearly defined can create too many grey areas and lead to inconsistent decisions depending on individual opinions rather than clear standards. Families who are responsibly homeschooling should not have to worry about subjective interpretations affecting their ability to educate their children.**

Parents should remain the primary decision-makers in their children's education, and Rhode Island's current homeschool laws are already working well for many families like ours.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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