

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Monday, May 18th, 2026

Re: Testimony in Opposition to House bill titled H8531

Dear Chairperson McNamara and members of the House Education Committee,

I am Daniella Kalaoun, a parent from Cumberland, RI. I am testifying in opposition to H8531. I oppose H8531 because homeschool regulations of Rhode Island are working as is and no change is needed.

As our oldest daughter approaches her fifth birthday this summer, it's easy to be emotional at how quickly her "little years" have passed. It's easy to wonder if or how my husband and I could have guided her better as her parents so far, as most parents inevitably ponder. As we watch her balance a little steadier on her bicycle, sound out phonemes to discover what letter every object around the house starts with, and make her own pepperoni and Colby jack cheese sandwiches all by herself, we know that she needs us a little less every day.

But we also know that nobody will ever love her like we do, and nobody knows her like we do. Nobody will be willing to spend as much one-on-one time with her, or set up our lessons outside so that she can spend hours learning in nature instead of at a desk under fluorescent lighting, like we will do for her.

And what better classmates for her than her two younger siblings? As they grow and learn together, their empathy, leadership, and patience skills will thrive. Their sibling bonds are more likely to be deep for life.

You're probably familiar with the adage that it takes 10,000 hours to become an expert at something? As her parents, we know our daughter better than anyone else. We know by now what helps our daughter focus. We know when she is ready to sit and learn something new and we know when she needs to move her body a bit first.

And just like we know our daughter best and are committed to giving her and her siblings the best, healthiest, and safest childhood and schooling possible, we trust that other homeschool families have the same commitment to their children.

As law-abiding citizens, families like ours should not face additional oversight because of isolated cases, especially when existing child protection laws already apply to all families in Rhode Island.

I urge this committee to oppose H8531.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak against bill H8531. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Daniella Kalaoun
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House District 45