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From: Danielle Bruder <danielle.j.bruder@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 10:14 PM
To: House Education Committee
Subject: Support for H 8531 and Student Protection Legislation

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Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing in support of the proposed house bill, H 8531, allowing school districts to delay or deny homeschooling requests when there are legitimate educational or safety concerns.

As someone who works within the public school system, particularly in special education, I have seen firsthand how the lack of meaningful oversight in homeschooling can negatively impact vulnerable children. While there are many dedicated and capable families who provide excellent home education, there are also situations where homeschooling is being used in ways that do not serve a child's best interests.

I have encountered cases in which young children were withdrawn from school only to spend the majority of their day in front of screens with little meaningful instruction, social interaction, or developmental support. I have also seen situations where homeschooling appeared to be motivated not by educational philosophy, but by parental anxiety, avoidance of attendance expectations, or difficulty adhering to school structure and routines. In some cases, families simply were not equipped to meet the academic, emotional, or developmental needs of the child.

Children deserve more than minimal academic exposure. They need opportunities for socialization, communication, extracurricular involvement, problem-solving, accountability, and community participation. Schools provide not only instruction, but also access to peers, supportive adults, related services, structure, and protection. For many students, particularly those with disabilities or social-emotional needs, these supports are essential.

I believe the state has an obligation to ensure that every child receives an adequate, well-rounded education regardless of educational setting. Reasonable oversight is not an attack on homeschooling; it is a safeguard for children. Families who are homeschooling responsibly and effectively should have little to fear from accountability measures designed to identify situations involving educational neglect, truancy concerns, or potential abuse. Just as public educators are evaluated for effectiveness and held to a standard, home educators should also demonstrate competency.

Unfortunately, the current regulatory gap makes it too easy for homeschooling to be used as a cover for circumstances that would otherwise raise concern if a child remained enrolled in school. Without clear oversight mechanisms, vulnerable children can disappear from educational monitoring entirely.

This bill represents a balanced approach that prioritizes child welfare while still respecting the rights of families who homeschool responsibly. It gives districts the ability to intervene when there are credible

concerns while preserving homeschooling as an option for families who are truly able to provide an appropriate educational environment.

I strongly urge the committee to support this legislation in the interest of educational equity, accountability, and the well-being of children across our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Danielle Bruder