

House Committee on Education  
Room 135 – State House  
05/18/2026  
Testimony in Opposition of H5381

Dear Chairperson McNamara and members of the House Education Committee:

I am Elisabeth Amedee, a parent/home educator from Warwick, Rhode Island. I was homeschooled from first through 12th grade and completed kindergarten in a private school. I appreciate the level of care my mom put into our education and the flexibility of choosing curriculum that worked well for each of us. I am thankful for the “extras” she included in our education that aren't traditionally taught in public schools and have greatly benefited in my college courses from the strong base she built for us.

I have four children of my own now and started homeschooling when my oldest was entering kindergarten. I love that I can do the same for my kids. We will be entering our fourth year of homeschooling and I plan to do it as long as it is what works best for our family and our children's needs.

It is such a blessing to me to be able to watch my kids grow and blossom and learn. I am grateful to be able to raise them to be strong, independent thinkers and kind, respectful human beings. The hands-on experiences I am able to provide them through field trips and co-ops and a carefully chosen curriculum are vital to giving them a well-rounded education.

My children are thriving in the life we have built and within our community of fellow homeschoolers. The relationship I have built with them is vastly different than what it would be if they were in school 30 hours a week. The friendships we have built through the co-ops we participate in are so important and if we were suddenly denied the right to homeschool my children would be devastated.

We, as a family, oppose H8531. The current laws we have in Rhode Island are working as they are. To give that kind of ill-defined power to a school committee would be detrimental to so many children and families. I am concerned that passing this bill could prevent many families from having their own experiences as I have and that deeply saddens me. I have lived in Rhode Island my entire life and am proud of many things

about this state. Please oppose H8531 and protect parents' rights to determine if homeschool is the right path for their children/family.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Amedee

Warwick, RI

District 22