

## Oppose House Bill H8531

As grandparents of seven home schooled children, we oppose this bill because of the vague and possibly confusing language purportedly to guide local school superintendents and school committees in approving or disapproving of home school situations.

Our grandchildren range from 5 to 17 in Rhode Island and in California. In California, they are supported by state grants for courses and other types of learning including music, art, and physical education. In Rhode Island, they are not encouraged and supported in a similar way, even though the grants are a fraction of the average cost of educating a student in public schools.

We would much prefer to see our state supporting the extraordinary commitment and sacrifice homeschool parents make than in putting up more potential roadblocks and bureaucratic hurdles. Their commitment and sacrifice benefit the taxpayers of Rhode Island.

All our grandchildren perform above grade level and because of the focus and individual development for each child have been able to develop skills and abilities that may have been missed in a large classroom. The oldest was accepted at a major private university with grants and scholarships exceeding \$60,000 and will be starting in August.

Parents are the prime decision makers in their children's education or should be. The language in this ill-defined bill allows far too subjective an interpretation according and vulnerable to the whims and ideology of local authorities.

The bill uses vague and subjective language such as "competency," "capacity," and "best interest." The bill could allow inconsistent decisions rather than clear standards. Law-abiding homeschool families should not face additional oversight because of isolated cases.

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of RI citizens and your good intentions with this bill, but this is not the right course of action.

Respectfully,

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