

Jaime Vecchiarino
Member of ENRICHri Secular Homeschoolers

House Committee on Education
State of Rhode Island General Assembly

May 16, 2026
Testimony in Opposition of H8531

Dear Members of the House Committee on Education,

I have been a homeschool teacher for 8 years. Before this I put two of my children through the West Warwick Public School system from kindergarten through graduation. I feel I have the experience of both the homeschool and public school views of education. My husband and I are not religious individuals, but pride ourselves on giving our daughter an education built to her needs. This was our main reason for homeschooling. My daughter struggles to retain information that is relayed verbally only. Tailoring her education to these needs (specifically adding visual and kinesthetic learning) has allowed her to thrive academically. She is able to meet people of different ages, beliefs, interests, and who express deep longing to learn and follow their passions. She has had a much easier time cultivating these relationships than my public schooled children did. I believe this is because instead of being in a classroom with people born the same time as her, she is engaging with people who challenge her and help her grow based on these things.

I am very concerned that this bill uses vague and subjective language such as “competency,” “capacity,” and “best interest.” There is no consistent guidance or standards in this language, and allows too much interpretation of the school committees. I adamantly believe that families should not have to arbitrarily prove that we are good enough to homeschool.

I urge you to vote in opposition of this bill. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Jaime Vecchiarino