

Dear House Education Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose Bill H8531, which would increase restrictions and government control over homeschooling in Rhode Island.

My family has been homeschooling for the past seven years, and it has been one of the greatest blessings to our children and our family as a whole. Homeschooling has allowed us to provide a rich and individualized education, strengthen our family relationships, support our children's unique learning needs, and instill the values and character that are important to us.

Throughout these years, we have seen firsthand how homeschooling allows children to thrive academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually in ways that are often difficult to measure through government oversight or standardized systems. We are deeply concerned that this bill would place unnecessary burdens and restrictions on responsible families who are already successfully educating their children.

Rhode Island homeschooling families have a long history of raising educated, capable, and engaged young people without excessive government interference. Increased regulation does not strengthen education. Instead, it risks undermining parental rights and discouraging families who are working diligently to provide the best education possible for their children.

Parents, not the government, know their children best. Decisions regarding a child's education should remain primarily in the hands of families.

I respectfully urge you to vote against this bill and protect the freedom of Rhode Island families to continue homeschooling without additional restrictions and control.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kimball

Coventry, RI