

May 18, 2026

Dear Ms. Lisa Cataldi,

The notion of parental rights in education is fundamental to what our founders envisioned for a free society. Proposals like HB 8531, which grant local school committees unchecked power to delay or deny homeschooling requests, represent a dangerous departure from these core American values. We are being asked to trust local officials with the authority to question a parent's competency or capacity to educate their own children, a power that opens the door to arbitrary decisions and infringes upon the constitutional rights of fit parents to direct their children's upbringing.

Our nation's values are built on the bedrock of individual liberty and the inherent right of families to guide their children's education. Forcing parents to prove their entitlement to homeschool and denying them the right to appeal to a court creates an imbalance of power that is antithetical to our heritage. Future generations depend on us to uphold these principles. This is not merely a local issue; it speaks to the very character of our civic institutions and our commitment to freedom across Rhode Island and beyond.

This is a patriotic responsibility to stand against such overreach. We must ensure that families have the freedom to choose the educational path that best suits their children, free from unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles and subjective judgments. Our commitment to liberty requires us to protect these foundational rights for all families in our state.

Yours Sincerely,

Kimberly Gill
Homeschooling Parent