

## Lisa Cataldi

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**From:** Kristy Hallam <khallamlund@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2026 8:16 PM  
**To:** House Education Committee  
**Subject:** House Bill 8531

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Kristy Hallam  
1 Woodmansee Court  
Richmond, RI 02892

May 18,2026

Dear Members of the Education Committee,

I write to strongly oppose the proposed bill 8531.

This bill is written in vague, subjective terms that would allow school officials to make discretionary judgments about a parent's fitness to teach and the adequacy of a child's education without clear, objective standards. Granting such open-ended authority risks arbitrary and inconsistent application across families and districts, undermining parents' constitutional right to direct their children's upbringing and education.

The proposal also improperly shifts the burden of proof onto parents. Requiring families to demonstrate their competency to homeschool places an onerous, stigmatizing burden on responsible parents who are already providing lawful and effective educations for their children. Under the current statutory framework, homeschooling families follow reasonable requirements while child-protection laws and existing education safeguards remain available to address genuine concerns. Replacing those functioning rules with a regime that presumes insufficiency unless proven otherwise is unnecessary and unjust.

There are already state mechanisms that protect children—mandatory reporting- that apply equally to homeschooled children when concerns arise. Additional prescriptive oversight is not justified by evidence of widespread problems; instead, this bill would create needless conflict between families and school authorities and divert limited public resources to monitoring compliant homeschooling households.

For these reasons I urge you to reject the bill in its current form. The legislature should not replace a working system with vague, subjective authority that invites unequal enforcement and unnecessary intrusion into family life.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristy Hallam  
1 Woodmansee Court  
Richmond RI 02892  
Sent from my iPhone