

Testimony in Opposition to H8531

Chair, members of the committee, my name is Laura Raso, and I thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns about my strong opposition to Bill H8531.

My husband and I—one an engineer, the other a nurse—chose homeschooling with great intention and deep commitment. Our decision is grounded in our belief that our children deserve a full, balanced, and individualized education. We are not alone in this choice; we are active members of EnrichRI, the largest non-secular homeschool cooperative in the state. Through this community, our children learn, socialize, and grow in an environment that reflects both academic rigor and personal care.

For our family, homeschooling is not a retreat from education—it is an investment in it. It allows us to tailor learning to our children’s needs, to provide the individual attention they thrive on, and to uphold the values and structure that work best for them. As dedicated professionals, we bring the same diligence and responsibility to our children’s education that we bring to our careers.

H8531 threatens that balance. By opening the door for outside parties to enter our home and our homeschool environment, this bill crosses a line that should not be crossed. It undermines the privacy of families who have done nothing wrong. It creates a precedent that our homes—our children’s learning spaces—are subject to intrusion based on suspicion rather than evidence. This is not oversight; it is overreach.

Our home is where our children feel safe, supported, and free to learn. Allowing others to enter that space under the authority of this bill would be disruptive and unnecessary. It could erode the trust and stability that are essential to effective homeschooling.

We are committed parents. We are responsible professionals. We are part of a thriving, accountable homeschool community. We do not need surveillance to prove our dedication to our children’s education.

I respectfully urge you to reject H8531 and protect the rights, privacy, and dignity of Rhode Island homeschooling families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Laura Raso

EnrichRI Member