

## Opposition to Proposed Changes to H 8531 – Homeschooling Regulations

Dear Members of the Committee,

We are Megan Berndt and Nathan Bousquet, and are writing on behalf of our family to express our strong opposition to the proposed changes and new language introduced in H 8531.

We have been homeschooling our child in Rhode Island for the past nine years, and our experience has shown that the current system works exceptionally well. The changes proposed to this statute would place unnecessary limitations and additional regulations on our homeschooling environment, which we do not need.

Existing child protection laws already apply universally to all families across Rhode Island. Homeschooling families do not require more restrictions or additional oversight to ensure the safety and well-being of their children.

Over the past decade, our homeschooling journey has been highly successful and deeply beneficial. Homeschooling allows us the flexibility to tailor an education that meets our child's unique needs. Our child has several challenges that in-person public schools would not be able to accommodate at the capacity that we do at home. In addition to addressing these challenges, homeschooling has allowed her to excel in areas of advanced study; she is currently in the 7th grade but has already completed an 11th-grade-level Spanish curriculum.

Homeschooling is incredibly important to our family, and the current level of oversight is entirely sufficient. We respectfully urge you to reject the proposed restrictions in H 8531.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our community.

Sincerely,

Megan Berndt, LICSW and Nathan Bousquet

Charlestown, Rhode Island

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