

RE: H8531 — Opposition
Submitted to: House Education Committee

May 18, 2026

Chair and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Robyn Meletis. I am a Rhode Island mother, home educator, and founder of Monomyth Studios, a mentorship initiative for teens and young adults focused on helping young people better understand their strengths, capabilities, patterns, and direction.

I respectfully oppose H8531 because I believe it expands government oversight into an area where parents should retain primary responsibility and authority over the education of their children.

Most families do not turn to home education lightly. Many arrive there after years of trying to make conventional systems work for a child who is struggling emotionally, socially, academically, or psychologically inside an environment that no longer fits their needs. Parents are watching anxiety rise, confidence erode, curiosity disappear, and children who were once engaged slowly disconnect from learning altogether. These families are not abandoning education. They are trying to preserve their child's well-being while taking direct responsibility for their education.

What concerns me most about this legislation is that it appears focused on increasing oversight of the families leaving rather than seriously examining why so many families feel compelled to leave in the first place. Rhode Island should be expanding educational opportunities, mentorships, apprenticeships, flexible learning environments, and meaningful support systems for families. Instead, proposals like this risk creating an atmosphere of suspicion around parents who are already deeply invested in their children's growth and development.

A healthy society depends on trust between families and government. Educational freedom should not be treated as a threat to manage, but as an important safeguard that allows children to learn in environments where they can genuinely thrive. Many home educating families are building thoughtful, rigorous, highly individualized educational experiences that deserve respect, not additional barriers and oversight.

I respectfully urge the committee to oppose H8531 and protect the rights of Rhode Island families to direct the education and well-being of their children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Meletis
Founder, Monomyth Studios
Coventry, Rhode Island
Position: **OPPOSED**