

Good Morning, Chairman Grey,

I want to express, for the record, that as a homeschooler, I firmly oppose bill H8531. It is in direct violation of parental rights. Schools are institutions some families choose to utilize for academics, but they are not the only avenue for educating children. The recorded success rates of homeschooled children over public school students should be evidence enough of why this bill shouldn't be considered. Our family has homeschooled for almost 20 years. We have a college graduate managing several clothing stores, another child currently on scholarship in URI's nursing program, and another in the National Guard working full time for them. The rest of our children are currently still homeschooling. You cannot punish the many faithful home educators because of the poor choices of a few. More importantly, the state public education system or government should never have the power to determine what is best for someone's child. These matters are complex, and you would never have all the information necessary to make those decisions. You don't live with the child, know their personality, learning style, struggles, etc. Schools need to stay in their lane; teaching writing, reading, and arithmetic to the students entrusted to them and stop trying to replace parents in other areas.

Thank you for your consideration and service to our state.

Best regards,

Samantha Short  
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