

Dear Members of the House Committee on Education,

I am writing to you as both a professional educator and a father of two homeschooled children to formally express my strong opposition to Bill H8531.

In my professional capacity, I witness approximately 1,000 students weekly. My work setting allows me to interact with students who are enrolled across public, private, and homeschool settings. This extensive experience has shown me that every child and family is unique. For many students, a traditional school environment is not the most conducive setting for their specific developmental needs. In certain instances, delaying a transition to homeschooling can be detrimental to a child's well-being and academic progress. Furthermore, homeschooling allows families to remain deeply engaged in the learning process, allowing for parents to tailor the teaching environments that would foster the child's ability to excel. In addition keeping the decision to homeschool at the family level will provide the necessary flexibility to accommodate diverse work schedules and individual family requirements.

I firmly believe that the decision regarding a child's education is a fundamental right that should remain with the parents. It is deeply concerning that proposed legislation could grant the state the authority to delay, prevent, or deem a family "unfit" to homeschool, particularly without providing a clear right to appeal such decisions in court. I believe these measures significantly undermine parental rights and constitutional protections.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose Bill H8531 and protect the educational autonomy of families.

Sincerely,

Tristan Heuvelman