

Members of the House Committee on Education  
State of Rhode Island General Assembly

May 16, 2026

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to H8531**

Dear Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Willow Campbell, and I am 17 years old and have been homeschooled my whole life.

This is not my first time at the State House to testify about a proposed bill. Because I am homeschooled, I have been able to learn about and participate in the legislative process despite not being old enough to vote. I have had the opportunity to experience firsthand how the legislative process works, as well as how important it is to use my voice to help create change and to speak up for my community. Most of my testimonies have been about sustainability and climate change issues, but today I am speaking up for something more personal. My right to be homeschooled.

I have benefited and enjoyed being homeschooled for 12 years, thanks to the current clear Rhode Island law. I have cultivated a love of learning, which manifests in all aspects of my life. I have gotten the opportunity to learn by doing, participating, building relationships, being a part of multiple communities, and experiencing aspects of life and learning that I could never have gotten in school. This is what my parents wanted for me, and why, as a teenager, I continue to chose to homeschool.

The current homeschooling laws are effective, fair, and create a consistent opportunity for all families to make the best educational choice for their children. The proposed H8531 will add vague and subjective language to the law. This will create an inconsistency in families' ability to homeschool and do what is best for their children. It will limit opportunities.

**I urge you to vote in opposition to H8531.**

Thank you for your time,

Willow Campbell  
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