

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 207
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, I write to you with a pressing concern regarding the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation and their impact on children with disabilities and special learning needs. As a homeschooling parent deeply committed to advocating for the rights of all children to receive a quality education, I urge the committee to consider the unique challenges faced by families of children with disabilities and to ensure that the proposed changes adequately support their educational needs. It is no secret that many children with disabilities have struggled within traditional school settings, where resources and support may be insufficient or inaccessible. For these children, homeschooling often represents a lifeline—an opportunity to receive a personalized, tailored education that meets their individual needs and abilities. However, the proposed changes risk further marginalizing children with disabilities by imposing rigid curriculum requirements that may not be suitable or feasible for them. Many of these children may require alternative approaches to learning that focus on developing functional skills, fostering independence, and promoting inclusion within their communities. I urge the committee to consider how the proposed changes will impact homeschooling children with disabilities who are unable to learn within the confines of a traditional curriculum. What provisions will be made to ensure that these children receive the support and accommodations they need to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally? Furthermore, I implore the committee to recognize the invaluable role that homeschooling parents play in advocating for their children and providing them with the specialized support they require. Rather than imposing top-down mandates, let us work collaboratively to develop policies that empower parents to make informed decisions about their children's education and ensure that all children, regardless of ability, have access to the resources and support they need to succeed. In conclusion, I urge the committee to prioritize the needs of children with disabilities in the drafting of homeschooling legislation and to ensure that the proposed changes support their right to receive an appropriate and inclusive education. Thank you for your attention and consideration. Kind Regards, Tamara Kerr [Homeschooling Parent and Advocate]