

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 218
Submitted by: Dennaë Trask
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: See attachment
Submitter Comments:

13th March 2024

Dennae Trask

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Changes to Homeschooling Legislation

Dear Committee Members,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation, specifically the requirement to adhere to a prescribed curriculum. This part of the proposal is something I cannot approve of, and this has caused a lot of stress and anxiety for myself knowing that this format would undermine everything my children and I have worked towards in improving their education, mental health and physical health by choosing the home school method for our family. As a parent homeschooling two children with complex learning difficulties, including ASD, ADHD, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, dyslexia, anxiety disorder, and other medical challenges affecting their learning, I urge you to consider the importance of maintaining flexible learning environments that cater to the unique needs of each child.

Having transitioned my children from mainstream schooling, where they struggled and failed to thrive, to a homeschooling environment, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of personalized, interest-driven learning. Unlike the rigid structures of traditional education, homeschooling has allowed my children to explore subjects that genuinely captivate their interests, enabling them to engage with learning in a meaningful way.

For children like mine, who face various learning challenges, flexibility is not just a preference but a necessity. It is through this flexibility that we can adapt our teaching methods to accommodate their individual learning styles and provide the support they need to succeed. By tailoring our approach to their interests, we not only keep them engaged but also instil in them a lifelong love for learning.

The proposed changes to mandate a specific curriculum threaten to undermine the very essence of homeschooling—its ability to nurture the unique strengths and talents of each child. By imposing uniform standards, we risk alienating children who do not fit into the conventional mold and depriving them of the opportunity to thrive academically and personally.

As a homeschooling parent deeply committed to my children's education, I implore you to reconsider these proposed regulations. Instead of stifling creativity and individuality, let us work together to safeguard the flexibility and autonomy that make homeschooling such a valuable educational option for families like mine.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I trust that you will make the decision that best serves the interests of all children, ensuring they have access to educational opportunities that honour their uniqueness and foster their growth.

Sincerely,

Dennae Trask

Homeschooling Parent of Two