

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 298
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Dear Committee Members,

As a member of the homeschooling community, I am most concerned that we were not consulted on the proposed changes to the laws. Instead, we are sent a notification of the proposed changes. How did these proposed changes come about, what prompted the changes and how are these changes going to benefit the homeschooling community?

I urge you to pause the process to gain valuable insight and information from the homeschooling community, a community that is rapidly increasing in size, to work together to implement changes that are beneficial.

As stakeholders in the homeschooling community, it's imperative that we engage in a thorough examination of the real issues prompting families to opt for homeschooling rather than simply enforcing rigid curriculum requirements.

The proposed changes primarily focus on mandating adherence to laws and changed laws and adherence to a standard curriculum and standardised processes, without delving into the underlying reasons why many families choose homeschooling in the first place. This approach fails to address the core issues at hand and risks further alienating homeschooling families from the educational system. It is crucial that you work with homeschooling families, not bully, or mandate them into bending to rules that simply don't work for them.

It is also crucial to acknowledge that homeschooling is often chosen by families for a variety of reasons, including dissatisfaction with the traditional schooling system, concerns about

safety and bullying, religious or philosophical beliefs, or a desire for more personalized and flexible learning experiences tailored to individual student needs.

Rather than imposing stricter regulations, I urge the committee to prioritize understanding and addressing the root causes of homeschooling trends. This entails listening to and considering the feedback from homeschooling parents, who are directly impacted by these legislative changes. Their insights and experiences are invaluable in shaping effective policies that support the diverse needs of families while ensuring the well-being and educational success of children.

I respectfully urge the committee to reconsider the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation and to first and foremost engage in a collaborative dialogue with homeschooling stakeholders to identify and address the real issues driving this educational choice. By doing so, we can work towards a more inclusive and responsive educational system that respects the choices and concerns of all families.

Regards,



Lynnette Kulow