

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Subject: Ensuring Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities: A Call for Action

As a homeschooling parent of a child with several disabilities, I am deeply disappointed by the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation. For many children with disabilities and neurodivergences, homeschooling is not just a choice but a necessity—an opportunity to create an environment where they can thrive at their own pace and in their own unique way. It is disheartening to see a focus on making homeschooling more rigid rather than addressing the systemic barriers that prevent many children with disabilities from accessing quality education in mainstream schools. Instead of imposing restrictive measures on homeschooling families, the committee's efforts would be better directed towards making mainstream schools more accessible and inclusive for all students, regardless of their abilities or differences.

Children with disabilities often face significant challenges in traditional school settings, where rigid structures and standardized approaches may not accommodate their diverse needs. Homeschooling provides a lifeline for these children, offering the flexibility and personalized support they require to learn and grow in a safe and nurturing environment. Rather than limiting the options available to families, we should be working to ensure that all children have access to a range of educational opportunities that meet their individual needs and preferences. This includes advocating for greater resources and support for inclusive education practices within mainstream schools, as well as providing alternative options like homeschooling for those who require a more tailored approach.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to reconsider its approach to homeschooling legislation and to prioritize the needs of children with disabilities and neurodivergences.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

[Homeschooling Parent of a Child with Disabilities]