

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 777
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee Members, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes in homeschooling legislation, particularly the requirement to follow a specific curriculum. As a homeschooling parent, I firmly believe that these changes would undermine the very reasons why many families, including mine, have chosen homeschooling as the preferred mode of education for our children. The essence of homeschooling lies in the freedom it affords children to learn in a manner that aligns with their individual interests, abilities, and learning styles. By imposing a mandated curriculum, these proposed changes would impede my children's autonomy and hinder their ability to pursue education in a way that best suits their needs. One of the primary motivations for homeschooling is to provide our children with a personalized learning experience that fosters their intellectual curiosity and allows them to learn at their own pace. These new regulations threaten to restrict this flexibility and stifle their natural inclination to explore and discover the world around them. Furthermore, enforcing a standardized curriculum fails to recognize the diverse interests and talents of homeschooling students. It overlooks the fact that every child is unique and may thrive in different subject areas or learning environments. By imposing rigid educational requirements, we risk depriving our children of the opportunity to pursue their passions and develop their full potential. In essence, these proposed changes would not only undermine the fundamental principles of homeschooling but also limit my children's ability to learn and grow in a way that honours their individuality and creativity. As a homeschooling parent deeply invested in my children's education, I urge the committee to reconsider these restrictive measures and instead focus on supporting families in providing a rich and diverse educational experience tailored to the needs of each child. I also write to you with a fervent plea to acknowledge and honour the remarkable success of home-educated children in society. As homeschooling parents, we have witnessed firsthand the incredible growth and achievements of our children, and we adamantly believe that the current homeschooling system should remain untouched. Home-educated children are not just thriving; they are excelling in every facet of life. From academic accomplishments to personal development, they are demonstrating resilience, creativity, and a passion for lifelong learning. This success is a testament to the dedication and commitment of homeschooling parents who prioritize their children's holistic development and tailor their educational experiences to meet their unique needs and interests. We firmly assert our right as parents to educate our children. They are our children, and we know them better than any system ever could. Homeschooling allows us to create an environment that nurtures their individual strengths, fosters their curiosity, and instills in them a love for learning that extends far beyond the confines of a classroom. Moreover, homeschooling provides a sanctuary for our children—a safe and supportive setting free from the pressures and pitfalls of bullying that often plague traditional school environments. In this nurturing atmosphere, they are free to explore, experiment, and grow into confident and compassionate individuals. It is essential to recognize that there is not one singular way to educate a child. Homeschooling empowers parents to teach their children how to learn, not just what to learn, laying the foundation for a lifetime of intellectual curiosity and personal fulfilment. As these home-educated children grow into adulthood, they continue to make significant contributions to society, enriching our communities with their diverse talents, perspectives, and values. We need more of these success stories, not less. In conclusion, I implore the committee to heed the voices of homeschooling parents and to uphold our right to educate our children in the manner we deem best. Let us continue to nurture the potential of our children and celebrate the extraordinary outcomes that homeschooling affords. Thank you for your attention.

and consideration.