

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 840
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Submitter Comments:

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. I would like you to please clarify for me, how are you planning to ensure consultation with the homeschooling community about this current bill in a larger capacity than the few hundred that were surveyed? 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. Through homeschooling, my children are not only acquiring academic knowledge but also developing essential life skills and values that are essential for success in the real world. They are learning how to think critically, communicate effectively, develop a love of learning, and adapt to new situations—all skills that will serve them well beyond the confines of a classroom. Moreover, homeschooling allows my children to actively participate in the world around them, gaining practical experience and insight that simply cannot be replicated in a traditional school setting. Whether it's volunteering in the community, pursuing hobbies and interests, or engaging in real-world projects, they are actively preparing for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. 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. Thank you for considering my concerns.