Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Hello everyone on the committee,

My name is **Example**. I've been hearing about this bill you're thinking of passing, and I wanted to tell you why it's got me feeling very worried and that I don't want these changes to happen.

I'm 10 years old, and I've got a bunch of stuff going on with me – like level 2 autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, sleep initiation disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, PDA, and some other medical stuff. It's definitely a lot.

Anyway, here's the thing. School was really hard for me. The lessons were boring, and I just couldn't seem to focus or get into them. It felt like my brain was always doing its own thing, and that made me feel like I was dumb because I couldn't keep up with the other kids in my class. My teachers were all really nice and tried to help me as much as they could, but I just couldn't do it even with trying really hard.

My Mum decided to homeschool me after I cried everyday not wanting to go to school anymore. Home school for me has been amazing! I'm so much happier, and I'm actually learning stuff that I care about. I get to learn about things that really excite me, and I can go at my own speed. I really love it and I don't feel dumb anymore, I actually feel very smart.

If this bill passes and I have to follow the Australian curriculum, and that makes me feel very scared. The standard stuff just doesn't fit with how my brain works. I need flexibility, not more rules and structure.

So please, please, please, think about kids like me before making any decisions. We just want the chance to learn in a way that works for us. And for me, that means sticking with homeschooling without having to be forced into learning about things that my brain won't find happiness in.

Thanks for listening,

(scribed by my Mum) 10 years old, grade 6