Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No:	1070
Submitted by:	Claire Stewart
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Dear Committee,

I am writing to express my strong objections to the proposals outlined in the Education Bill 2024. As a home educating mother of three amazing children aged 7, 11, and 13, I have significant concerns regarding the potential ramifications of these proposals.

Firstly, I am deeply troubled by the notion of entrusting the determination of a 'suitable educational environment' to external entities. Over the years, I have dedicated considerable effort to crafting an environment tailored to the unique needs and learning styles of my children and their peers. It is evident that a singular approach cannot adequately accommodate the diverse needs of every child.

Secondly, the proposal to mandate adherence to the national curriculum is profoundly concerning. The prescribed curriculum often lacks dynamism and fails to engage children authentically. My children thrive when pursuing subjects aligned with their interests, fostering genuine enthusiasm and deep learning experiences. Imposing rigid curriculum requirements threatens to stifle their creativity and hinder their educational growth.

Moreover, it is imperative to recognize the neurodiversity of my children and others within the homeschooling community. They require and deserve an education that celebrates their individual strengths and passions. Compelling adherence to a standardized curriculum would undoubtedly undermine the efforts of homeschooling families to provide a rich and inclusive educational experience tailored to their children's diverse needs.

In conclusion, I urge the Committee to reconsider the proposed measures within the Education Bill 2024, taking into account the concerns of homeschooling families like mine. It is essential to preserve the autonomy and flexibility necessary for fostering a vibrant and effective home education environment.

Sincerely, Claire Stewart