

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

To whom it may concern, I am writing to express some concerns regarding the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation. Instead of putting more demands and requirements on homeschooling families, you should be offering more assistance and resources for those of us who are taking it on ourselves to educate our children. You should be helping us and supporting us more, if you truly are interested in the best education for every child. The proposed changes primarily focus on mandating adherence to a standardized curriculum without delving into the underlying reasons why many families choose homeschooling in the first place. This approach fails to address the core issues at hand and risks further alienating homeschooling families from the educational system. It's crucial to acknowledge that homeschooling is often chosen by families for a variety of reasons, including dissatisfaction with the traditional schooling system, concerns about safety and bullying, religious or philosophical beliefs, or a desire for more personalized and flexible learning experiences tailored to individual student needs. One reason I have chosen homeschooling is because I want the freedom to teach what I think is best for my children, when I think it is best and not be required to follow the curriculum someone else has chosen and to have to use it exactly when they have chosen that it should be taught. There is not only one right and good curriculum. There is not only one way to educate children. There is not one perfect schedule that children should have to follow for all their subjects. I know my children – their strengths, weaknesses, interests, and abilities. I desire the freedom to teach my children accordingly, which may at times mean they are in various grade levels across the subjects in one year. Also having multiple aged children, in various grades, I would like to combine certain subjects for them to be able to get the most out of these lessons. I can spend more time on a lesson, take it deeper and make it more meaningful if I can teach the same topic to 3 different children in 3 different grade levels, as opposed to having to teach a different lesson to each child each day. This would include subjects like history, science, geography, cultural studies, etc. which are not dependent on grade levels. Being restricted to the national curriculum for each grade would mean I cannot do this. As for being required to report on every subject, homeschooling is already not the easy route. I have not chosen to homeschool because it is easier for me or for my children. It would be a whole lot easier for me to send them to school. I have chosen the more difficult route because I think there is value in having them at home and in having the freedom to make my own well-researched and informed decisions about when and what and how to teach my children. I put a lot of work, time, study, research, and effort into my children's education. If I wanted the state to dictate how I needed to do this, I might as well just put them in school. I do not need more work put on me to have to report on every subject for every child. The parents are the ultimate authority for their children's education, not the government. Teachers in the school system should be reporting for the sake of proving to the parents they are doing their jobs and to keep the parents informed on how their children are doing. Homeschool parents are already intimately acquainted with how their children are doing and should not be required to report it to the government – the parents are the highest authority, not the other way around. Homeschooling parents want what's best for their children. Governments and schools do not care more for those children than their own parents who are taking the responsibility on themselves to train and educate their own children. In conclusion, I respectfully urge the committee to reconsider the proposed changes to homeschooling legislation and to engage in a collaborative dialogue with homeschooling participants to identify and address the real issues driving this educational choice and to seek out how they can best come alongside the homeschool community to better help and assist us in educating our children. By doing so, we can work towards a more inclusive and responsive

educational system that respects the choices and concerns of all families. Thank you for your attention to this matter.