

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

Dear committee members I'm reaching out to you today with a heavy heart, but also with a fierce love for my son. The proposed changes to homeschooling legislation leave me worried, not just for my family, but for countless others like us. As you know, some children simply don't thrive in traditional school settings. My son, [REDACTED], is one of them. His neurodivergent needs weren't being met, and his anxiety grew to the point where even getting to school became a daily battle. One day, after a particularly harrowing incident, I was told there were "no options" for him within the system. It felt like a punch to the gut. That's when homeschooling became our reality, not by choice, but by necessity. It hasn't been easy. Taking on [REDACTED] education has been a full-time job on top of everything else. I've had to give up work, manage family life, and somehow find ways to earn a living. Yet, despite the sacrifice, seeing him flourish in a learning environment that caters to him has been the most rewarding experience of my life. The proposed legislation, however, seems to suggest that my efforts need to be "proven." It feels like a slap in the face after everything we've been through. Dianne, the truth is, mainstream education wasn't able to provide a quality education for [REDACTED]. Why would we be expected to prove what they couldn't deliver? Here's what truly concerns me: this legislation seems focused on control, not collaboration. Where's the research on why families like mine are turning to homeschooling in the first place? Where are the success stories being acknowledged? Instead, the focus seems to be on enforcing outdated methods that haven't worked for many children. Shouldn't we be exploring alternative methods that are leading to positive outcomes? There are countless stories of homeschooled individuals achieving great things, like Billie Eilish. Shouldn't we be learning from these experiences to shape a better future for education? Dianne, I urge you to reconsider this legislation. Instead of focusing on control, let's focus on supporting families and finding solutions that work for all children. Let's embrace the future of education, not cling to the past. Thank you for your time and consideration.