

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1486
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Submitter Comments:

To Whom It May Concern: I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed law that would require all homeschoolers in our state to use a national curriculum. While standardisation may seem appealing on the surface, such a mandate would undermine core benefits of homeschooling and limit educational freedom. I urge you to reconsider this proposal.

Undermining the Benefits of Homeschooling Why should families be forced to sacrifice the unique advantages of homeschooling? Many parents choose this educational path precisely because of the benefits it offers, such as a more personalised education tailored to their child's needs, the ability to foster closer family relationships, and the flexibility to accommodate unique circumstances or lifestyles. Imposing a one-size-fits-all national curriculum would strip away these cherished benefits that lead families to homeschool in the first place.

Lack of Customisation and Flexibility Can a single curriculum truly meet the diverse learning needs of all students? Children have varied interests, learning styles, strengths, and weaknesses. The beauty of homeschooling lies in the ability to customise educational approaches to each child's unique profile. A rigid national curriculum would hinder this crucial flexibility, forcing students into a mold that may not align with their optimal learning pathways.

Logistical Challenges How would such a national curriculum be implemented and enforced fairly and equally for all homeschooled students? A good law needs to be enforceable and applied evenly. Providing adequate resources, support, and monitoring for compliance across diverse homeschooling communities – including those in remote areas or with special needs – would be an immense bureaucratic and financial undertaking. Before mandating a one-size-fits-all solution, we must consider the practical hurdles and ensure any requirements can be implemented equitably.

Homeschooling affords families the freedom to craft an educational experience that aligns with their values, beliefs, and their child's individuality. Undermining this liberty with a national curriculum would sacrifice key tenets of homeschooling that families cherish. I implore you to protect these freedoms and abandon this proposed legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Andrew