

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 1595
Submitted by: Louisa Jerlstrom
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee, I write to express my strong opposition to the current proposal to define high-quality education solely in terms of adherence to the national curriculum. As an individual who was homeschooled from grade 2 onwards, I firmly believe that this approach fails to recognize the diverse learning needs and styles of students like myself. My journey began with significant struggles within the traditional schooling system. Despite my difficulties with reading, comprehension, and numerical concepts, the concerns raised by my parents were not adequately addressed by the school. Recognizing that the national curriculum did not suit my learning style, my parents made the decision to homeschool me. This pivotal choice opened up a world of personalized and engaging learning experiences that enabled me to thrive academically. Through homeschooling, I gained proficiency in essential skills such as reading and mathematics using unconventional yet effective methods tailored to my learning preferences. Rather than being confined to a rigid curriculum, I had the freedom to explore topics of interest deeply. For instance, my fascination with history led to immersive projects like creating edible Roman roads and constructing a "history wall" adorned with emperors' portraits and biographies. My parents well educated friends always enjoyed "learning" from our posters whenever they visited and expressed on number of occasions that they wish their education was that rich, engaging and verisale. Crucially, homeschooling instilled in me the confidence that I could learn anything I set my mind to. By pursuing my interests and passions, I discovered a sense of purpose in my education that transcended mere academic achievement. This personalized approach not only motivated me but also equipped me with valuable life skills and a clear direction for my future career aspirations. I am now 19 years old and pursuing my dream of becoming a physiotherapist, thanks in large part to the flexibility and individualized support provided by homeschooling. My academic journey, including obtaining certificates in Allied Health and Business Administration, has prepared me well for the rigors of higher education and empowered me to contribute meaningfully to my community through tutoring. In my current role as a tutor for high school students struggling with the national curriculum, I witness first-hand the limitations of a one-size-fits-all approach to education. Each student possesses unique talents, interests, and learning styles that cannot be adequately nurtured within the confines of a standardized curriculum. By embracing alternative educational pathways like homeschooling, we can unlock the full potential of every learner and foster a more inclusive and dynamic education system. Therefore, I urge you to reconsider the proposed definition of high-quality education and acknowledge the invaluable contributions of homeschooling in nurturing independent thinkers, lifelong learners, and future leaders. Sincerely, Louisa Jerlstrom