Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From:

Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee To:

Subject: Date:

Preserving Homeschooling Autonomy: Advocating Against Overregulation

Sunday, 24 March 2024 11:12:06 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed overregulation of homeschooling practices. As a homeschooling parent deeply invested in my children's education, I urge the committee to reconsider these measures, which threaten to undermine the autonomy and effectiveness of homeschooling.

It is essential to recognize that homeschooling families do not seek to replicate the traditional school system at home. Rather, we embrace the opportunity to provide a personalized, holistic education that aligns with our children's unique needs, interests, and learning styles. This approach fosters a love of learning, encourages critical thinking, and nurtures individual talents and passions.

After two years of homeschooling my daughters, it is evident that they are most engaged and motivated when I tailor the lessons and activities around topics that interest them. Many of these are not encorporated in the standardized traditional school system. For example: dragons, mythological creatures, folklore, mysteries of history and writing comics are some of the topics my 8 years old is fascinated by. I have been able to support her organic exploration of these topics while steering the learning in such a way that covers key skills that are appropriate for her age.

The imposition of rigid regulations and standardized requirements would only serve to stifle the flexibility and creativity that are the hallmarks of homeschooling. We reject the notion that onesize-fits-all mandates can adequately address the diverse needs of homeschooling families and their children.

Instead of focusing on excessive regulation, I urge the committee to support policies that empower homeschooling parents. By fostering a supportive environment that values parental expertise and encourages innovation, we can ensure that all children have access to a highquality education that prepares them for success in the 21st century.

In conclusion, I appeal to the committee to listen to the voices of homeschooling families and to respect our autonomy in crafting educational experiences that best serve our children. Let us work together to create a regulatory framework that preserves the essence of homeschooling while ensuring accountability and quality education outcomes.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely, Laura Brain

Homeschooling Parent and Advocate

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