Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From:

Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee

Subject: Concerns regarding proposed changes to homeschooling legislation

Date: Monday, 25 March 2024 11:14:44 AM

Dear Committee Members.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes in homeschooling legislation, particularly the requirement to follow a specific curriculum. As a homeschooling parent, I firmly believe that these changes would undermine the very reasons why many families, including mine, have chosen homeschooling as the preferred mode of education for our children.

The essence of homeschooling lies in the freedom it affords children to learn in a manner that aligns with their individual interests, abilities, and learning styles. By imposing a mandated curriculum, these proposed changes would impede my children's autonomy and hinder their ability to pursue education in a way that best suits their needs.

One of the primary motivations for homeschooling is to provide our children with a personalised learning experience that fosters their intellectual curiosity and allows them to learn at their own pace. These new regulations threaten to restrict this flexibility and stifle their natural inclination to explore and discover the world around them.

We get the best out of things when they're individualised not standardised. We don't expect everyone to follow the same eating plan or exercise regime or job pathway so why are we trying to standardise our children's education. Unfortunately the school system is unable to provide children a personalised education, focusing on their strengths, interests, learning abilities and styles to optimise learning. Right now home education offers this opportunity. A parent who knows their child best, is able to present a tailored, customised learning environment where the child is able to thrive in their own space away from the unnecessary distractions and constant changes during the day from a curriculum focused on one size fits all.

Furthermore, enforcing a standardised curriculum fails to recognize the diverse interests and talents of homeschooling students. It overlooks the fact that every child is unique and may thrive in different subject areas or learning environments. By imposing rigid educational requirements, we risk depriving our children of the opportunity to pursue their passions and develop their full potential.

In essence, these proposed changes would not only undermine the fundamental principles of homeschooling but also limit my children's ability to learn and grow in a way that honours their individuality and creativity. As a homeschooling parent deeply invested in my children's education, I urge the committee to reconsider these restrictive measures and instead focus on supporting families in providing a rich and diverse educational experience tailored to the needs of each child.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Jeannie Osborn

[Homeschooling Parent]