

Committee: Education Date: 3/11/24
Bill#(s): Homeschool Registration

Wish To Speak:
 Yes No
 Support Bill Oppose Bill Neutral
Time Needed: _____
Please leave a copy of any prepared statement with the committee clerk.

Name: Bridgette M.
Representing: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
City: Center Line State: MI

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 Yes No
 Support Bill Oppose Bill Neutral
Time Needed: _____
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Name: Marianne Robinson
Representing: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
City: Eastpointe State: MI

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Name: Lesley Bates
Representing: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
City: Warren State: MI

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 Yes No
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Name: Michelle Odenker
Representing: My homeschool family
Email: _____
Phone: _____
City: Clinton Twp State: MI

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Committee: _____ Date: _____
Bill#(s): _____

Wish To Speak:
 Yes No
 Support Bill Oppose Bill Neutral
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Name: Amelia
Representing: Students
Email: _____
Phone: _____
City: _____ State: _____

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My high school in 1991 had 1 guidance
counselor, no social worker and no therapist.
Not only were grades better, schools safer
and mental health issues not anywhere near
the problem they are now, but cost a lot less
money. How much money exactly do you
need to throw at these problems before
you actually fix them? Is there an amount
that you can point to that will actually
fix all these problems?

I'd like to add my comment
For the record - I JOHN PARKINSON
AM OPPOSED TO ANY AND ALL BILLS
that violate constitutional rights.
The current proposed Home School
Registry is a violation of the
FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE.
SEE COURT CASES WISCONSIN V. YODER.
Please Remember our RIGHTS

Sheila Cohoon would
like to speak about school
Safety

Amelia, a student, would
like to give public comment in
regard to school safety and
concerns.
It's important to get a
student's perspective.

Can ANY of you
Define "GUN
Violence"
Please.

House Education Committee
Bill/Issue: Homeschool Registration
Oppose
Katherine Bussard
Pottersville, mt

House Education Committee
Bill/Issue: Homeschool Registration
Wish to Speak: no
Support / Oppose
Jennifer White
Clinton Twp, MI

QUESTIONS FROM IEICM

- 1) WHY YOU DON'T ALLOW MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY TO SPEAK UP?
- 2) WHY YOU WANT TO REGULATE HOMESCHOOLERS - IF THERE IS MORE ABUSE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS??
- 3) WHAT'S THE REAL REASONS BEHIND HOMESCHOOLERS REGISTRATION GOV. ~~CONTROL~~ CONTROL?

BILL/ISSUE: HOMESCHOOL REG.

WISH TO SPEAK: NO

SUPPORT / OPPOSE

KENDELE SLUKA

Scarlett Treece
11510 Erin's Way
Romeo, MI 48065

March 11, 2024

Dear Education Committee Members,

First, I want to thank you for taking up the cause of representing Michigan constituents. The job you have taken on is not easy or taken lightly, I'm sure. Additionally, those of you on the education committee have entered into an area of which I am confident you are passionate about, that of the education of Michigan's children, which is an area fraught with problems to solve and no easy means of doing so. Again, I thank you for taking your position seriously and for the many ways you have blessed the state of Michigan with your service.

I am writing to express concern over the speculated homeschool registration proposal. My time as an elementary and middle school teacher were driving forces behind my desire to homeschool my children. Issues of safety and questions about the quality of education have been dialogues used in conjunction with the need for homeschool registration and I would like to speak to both.

First, with regard to the safety of children, I too believe the safety of children is of the utmost importance. However, it seems the issue of safety, specifically as it relates to homeschooling, began with the investigation of Brown and Flore, even though the initial accusations were dismissed due to lack of evidence. This specific issue does not relate to homeschooling. The Browns were involved with CPS where the children that came through their foster home were registered with the state. If there is still a question about the safety of children who were in the family's care, how did these foster children being registered through the state keep them safe? Also, foster children, per the states own laws which must have been known to Brown as a CPS employee, are not allowed to be homeschooled. Again, this remains a CPS problem, not a homeschooling issue.

I believe if we look closely at the issue of children's safety, we can agree that having a child's name on a state registry will not keep them safe. Those who have malicious intent toward children are not inclined to follow the law in the first place, so the proposed registry would only put unnecessary restriction on those families who are already law abiding homeschool families. If we can agree that simply having a child's name on a registered list will not keep them safe, one has to suppose that a homeschool registration proposal is just a stepping stone towards more restriction and government oversight. This makes the law less about safety and more about placing restrictions on parental rights and freedoms.

Statement from Amelia F. She was not allowed to speak at the meeting

I'm currently in 10th grade and want to speak about my experiences in public school as a junior high student. I was physically and verbally assaulted daily, called vile names, slammed into lockers, pushed and tripped on the bus. I was also subjected to listening to explicit sex talk from boys. When I spoke to my school counselor about this bullying and abuse, she showed me a chart and told me I wasn't being bullied and that it was just boys being rude and annoying. I brought my concerns to my district's school board meeting but the board did nothing. When I was in 8th grade, my parents pulled me out of the toxic public school environment and now I attend a homeschool campus. I'm thriving there and learning more than I ever did in public school.

However, I want to advocate for students still in public school so for the past 3 years, I've been a regular speaker at school board meetings. I was mostly ignored in my home district, but was able to make some positive changes there including ensuring a flag in every classroom and the Pledge of Allegiance being said every day. I was asked to speak at other districts and for the past year have been speaking at Chippewa Valley. However, that board has repeatedly tried to silence and intimidate me and even walked out on me while I was addressing them during my public comment time.

A board member's wife and her group of left wing activists mock me on social media and at the meetings. Her husband, Mr King, has repeatedly defended his wife publicly at the meetings. He's also stated at the meetings that he doesn't condone hate but apparently, it's acceptable to him if coming from his wife and her group. Mrs King and her group take videos of conservative public commentators at the school board meetings then post them on their group facebook page to mock and shame those speakers.

The school board was made aware of all this awhile ago but they refuse to address it, other than condone the actions of the left wing group. The bullying problem isn't exclusive to kids in public schools. So how will you address the bullying perpetrated by adults on the school board and at the school meetings?

Also, being that I'm homeschooled, I'd like to know the REAL reason you're trying to register us kids. Many of us left public school due to lack of safety and are now thriving and safe in homeschool settings and campuses. I suspect this has more to do with the need to control. It will only lead to more regulations on homeschools such as mandating curriculum and testing, implementing fees, home inspections, confiscation of guns and eventually, democrats will outlaw homeschool completely.

So again, please address the bullying perpetrated by adults and school boards, and also the homeschool registration.

March 11, 2024

Dear Education Committee:

I want to express my sincere gratitude for your dedicated service to our beloved state of Michigan. Recognizing the challenges of your role, I appreciate your commitment, and I want to extend my appreciation. My name is Michelle, a lifelong resident of Michigan currently residing in Clinton Township. My husband and I have proudly undertaken the responsibility of home educating our three children for seven years, an experience that has been immensely rewarding for our family, and we are deeply invested in preserving those freedoms.

Recent news regarding legislative efforts to regulate homeschooling has sparked significant concern for us. Our primary focus is on nurturing our children's education and instilling values of service to our community, rather than navigating unnecessary government regulations, therefore, I am writing to voice my concern about the potential changes to Michigan's homeschooling laws.

Homeschooling has proven to be immensely beneficial for our children's academic, social, emotional, and mental development. The flexibility it offers allows us to tailor instruction to each child's unique needs, ensuring both academic excellence and personal growth. Our focus has been on providing our children with a well-rounded education and contributing to our community, and we hope to continue doing so without unnecessary government constraints.

While we respect and support families who opt for public schools, we appeal to you to direct your efforts towards enhancing the public education system. We simply request that our freedom to choose the best educational path for our children remains unimpeded. Ensuring a safe learning environment is paramount, and many families choose homeschooling to shield their children from physical dangers and emotional bullying. Introducing regulations may hinder students' access to this secure environment. Considering the statistically proven safety of homeschooling compared to public schools, we advocate for prioritizing existing systems over imposing new restrictions. It is imperative that we safeguard parental freedoms. Mandating homeschooling families to register with the public school system contradicts the very essence of our deliberate choice to educate our children outside of the traditional system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will take these concerns to heart as you continue to serve our great state.

Sincerely,



Michelle Odoerfer

Dear Education Committee:

Thank you so much for your service to our great state of Michigan. I can imagine that it is not an easy job, and I appreciate it. My name is Jennifer; I've lived in Michigan all my life. I currently live in Clinton Township, and my husband and I have been educating our 3 children at home for 10 years. Our family has been so blessed by this opportunity, and we want to continue to enjoy the freedoms we currently have. Please keep Michigan's law regarding homeschooling as is, and please encourage your colleagues to not pursue restrictions.

We have heard in the news that legislators are working on a bill regarding homeschool regulations, and we are very concerned about this. Our lives are dedicated to helping our children learn and demonstrating service to our community all while being productive members of society. We want to be able to focus on that instead of spending our time and resources working on government requirements.

We support other families who choose public schools as an option if that is what works best for their families, and we acknowledge that is the case for most of our neighbors. We encourage you to spend your time and resources on the public school system to help meet the needs of students who are currently there. We are only asking that our freedom to choose the best educational options for our children remains intact.

Our children are thriving academically, socially, emotionally, and mentally, and we truly believe that homeschooling is the best for them. We have been able to individualize instruction that is uniquely designed for each child while ensuring the academic rigor that we think they need. When students have special learning needs, the flexibility we currently enjoy allows us to meet those needs in creative ways because we're able to have one one-on-one instruction. It has also allowed us so many hands-on learning experiences.

A safe learning environment is something that every student deserves. Many families are educating at home to keep their children safe from physical dangers or emotional bullying, and we don't want to create barriers for families seeking that safety. Regulations could delay or block a student's access to that safe environment. Statistically, homeschoolers are much safer than students in public schools, and, again, I believe the limited time and resources would be much better spent on looking at the systems already in place instead of creating new restrictions.

Ultimately, we need to protect our parental freedoms. Homeschooling parents have deliberately chosen to not enroll their students in the public school system. Requiring those students to then register with that very system is burdensome, to say the least.

Thank you so much for your time, and please consider these concerns.

Thank you so much,

Jennifer White

Dear Rep. Matt Koleszar,

I want to take a moment to thank you for your service in the Michigan State Legislature and taking time away from your home area to work hard for the citizens of Michigan. My name is Sara Demick. My husband and I have lived in Michigan our entire lives. We both grew up attending both public and private education facilities and truly never imagined we would end up homeschooling our children. However, after countless hours of research, we determined that this was the best option for our family. We have been a homeschooling family now for the last 7 years and have participated in activities both with public school funding and without. We believe that there are multiple ways to educate children and that just like with most things in life, it is not a simple one size fits all. We have many friends with children in the public school system whose children are thriving in that environment. We have personally considered utilizing a hybrid option with a local school district as our children get older and love that there are so many options and flexibility currently.

As I'm sure you are aware, there have been many talks about a homeschool registration bill being proposed in the legislature. This is my reason for writing and expressing my concern. While I understand and appreciate the concerns that have been raised, I would imagine the efforts to create a registration system and track every student throughout the state would create additional stress on the already tight budget for education along with hours of unnecessary work. I truly believe that an effort to understand why so many have left the public school system and the ways to bring more children back would be a much more effective use of the educational funding.

Our family would greatly appreciate it if you would consider not pursuing any change to the current homeschool laws here in Michigan. We would love to continue focusing all our attention on our children's continued education and helping our community, rather than spending our time on government requirements. We love the flexibility of our homeschool living and how it allows our children to thrive and grow.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your consideration,

Sara Demick
6103 Thorneycroft
Shelby Twp., MI 48316

Rep Koleszar stated quite "I'm looking forward to hearing testimony from experts and listening to residents in this upcoming committee hearing. This is a vital step, so that we can be well-informed as we continue to craft smart legislation that will keep kids safe."

A student wanted to make a public comment at this meeting. She came because she thought it would be crucial to hear from a student's view point. However, Koleszar decided he didn't actually want to hear from anyone but the cherry picked "experts". He adjourned without hearing at all from the community and quickly ran from the room. I yelled out how important it would be to hear from a student and this meeting was about education so how can elected officials make proper legislation without student input?

This meeting was never about actual student safety. It was a disappointment to come here and see how this was run. It's no wonder there's so many issues facing education when some representatives don't care about student input.

Leanne Fisk
248 495 2192