

California Homeschool Network
Press Release ****IMMEDIATE****

Homeschool Parents Tell State Legislators Why They Homeschool – And It’s Not Looking Pretty for Traditional California Public Schools

Anaheim, CA - April 17, 2018: Homeschool parents outraged over legislators using one homeschool family child abuse case to severely limit homeschooling in California, have decided to fight back with their own stories of abuse – in California’s public schools.

In response to AB2756 (segregating registered homeschools in order to facilitate future regulations), and AB2926 (new advisory board, to potentially demand parents become credentialed teachers, and limit curriculum choices) – California Homeschool Network (CHN) began collecting stories from parents about “why we homeschool”. Shockingly – some of these stories show parents turning to homeschool because their children were abused in traditional public schools. These parents view homeschooling as “protection” for children. This abuse is worse for special needs kids, who often cannot or do not report their abuse in the classroom.

“When I reported abuse by my son’s special education teacher – his school, Capistrano Unified (CUSD) sued me, to put him in a school where they lock kids in a closet”, explained concerned parent Pam Ragland. “If I locked my son in a closet, someone would call Child Protective Services on me.” After Ragland started homeschooling she learned her autistic son had also been choked by a school administrator. “Not only has my son never needed to be locked in a closet—but he finally realized kids are not supposed to be choked at school, and told me about what happened.”

Ragland, who runs an association for parents of Autistic and ADHD kids—many homeschooled— stated, “My parents have story after story of unthinkable abuse in schools. It’s a real problem.”

California has “latent discovery” for sexual abuse of children—but not physical or emotional abuse. As a result, many cases of abuse in public schools don’t make it into abuse statistics, and violators are never punished. Worse—abusers are still legally working with kids. Thanks to lobbying by CTA, it is very hard to fire a teacher, so schools find alternative ways to get poor or abusive teachers out of their school by what is known as “Passing the Trash.” Ragland’s son’s special education teacher had worked at 14 different schools in 14 years. A teacher told her, “They know and are moving him around.” That’s the problem legislators should be working on!

If, as we hope, legislators are concerned about the safety of children, they will protect them in traditional public schools. Homeschooling is not the risk factor -- and a March 2018 study found “...a comparison of homeschool abuse versus public school abuse or private school abuse suggests less abuse...of homeschool students”. The study concluded states with tougher homeschool regulations have no less abuse cases than those states with the least regulation.

[<https://www.nheri.org/2018/03/15/degree-of-homeschool-regulation-no-relationship-to-homeschool-child-abuse>]

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