

California Homeschool Network

Press Release

Is Sacramento finally listening to homeschoolers?

California, April 21, 2018- In an unexpected twist just a week before the scheduled Education Committee hearing, Assemblymember Susan Eggman has removed her controversial homeschooling bill in response to thousands of calls, emails and petition signatures from concerned homeschool parents.

Assembly Bill 2926 proposed studying the regulation of homeschooling in response to the Turpin child abuse case out of Perris, California. In January, authorities responded to a call for help at the home and subsequently arrested both parents. The family had filed the previous year as private homeschoolers. Two bills were immediately introduced calling for regulation of homeschooling, ostensibly because of concerns for the safety of all homeschooled children, which prompted an outcry that homeschooling should not be blamed.

Assemblymember Eggman's bill, along with Assembly Bill 2756 (known as the home fire inspection bill) authored by Assemblymember Jose Medina, both targeted private homeschoolers only, creating state-mandated data collection and studies designed to enable further regulation requiring homeschoolers to follow less successful public school methods of teaching. Thousands of good homeschooling families were lumped in with one abusive family. Families argued that many studies have already been done on homeschooling, and their results show a thriving and successful homeschool community that is not in need of regulation which would target only homeschool families and not all other families.

Homeschoolers calling and visiting Assemblymember Eggman's office reported that the assemblymember was upset over receiving more than 5,000 phone calls in opposition to this bill in a short period of time. Almost 34,000 signatures have been collected on a [change.org](https://www.change.org) petition addressed to the assemblymember to date, and hundreds of homeschool families have made travel plans to attend the hearing for both bills in Sacramento on April 25th.

Assembly Bill 2926 was amended on Thursday, April 18th to remove one of the three study criteria it would have mandated. That same afternoon the hearing was abruptly cancelled by the author. Homeschool families consider this a small victory, and hope the assemblymember has gained a better understanding of the homeschool community in California, and will work with

that community to enhance alternative education options and ensure that private homeschooling remains flexible and unencumbered by unnecessary regulation.

Assemblymember Medina also amended Assembly Bill 2756 several weeks ago, removing an element of the bill that would have had Fire Marshals conducting child abuse checks in homes of those who homeschool. This bill now seeks to collect further data on homeschoolers, but families question why one single child abuse case would result in calls for stricter scrutiny of every homeschooler in the state when there is no evidence that homeschool children are more likely to be abused than their public school peers.

Hundreds of homeschool families plan to meet at the capitol on the 25th to state their opposition to the remaining bill, to hold a rally on the capitol steps, and, in true homeschool fashion, many hope to picnic on the capitol lawn and tour Sacramento with their children.

See the "Preserve Homeschooling in California" petition and comments at:

<https://www.change.org/p/susan-eggman-preserve-homeschooling-in-california>

"Come Meet Some Homeschool Alumni":

<http://www.californiahomeschool.net/homeschooling-resources/home-school-alumni/>

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