

California Homeschool Network
Press Release

California Homeschool Families, Targeted for their Choice of Education

California, April 23, 2018 - Two bills in the California Assembly have prompted California homeschoolers to become grassroots activists. Homeschool families are heading to the California State Capitol en masse on April 25th to voice their opposition to changes in Education Law that threaten their privacy as well as their success as home educators.

AB 2926, authored by Assemblymember Susan Talamantes Eggman, was met with tremendous opposition which resulted in its removal from the April 25th agenda of the Committee on Education. Weeks before its removal the bill's author stated that she had already received calls from over 5,000 Californians opposing the bill. AB 2926 targeted families for investigation by a committee based solely on one arbitrary characteristic, educational choice. The bill is not expected to move forward.

AB 2756, introduced by Assemblymember Jose Medina but also authored by Assemblymembers Susan Talamantes Eggman, Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, and Freddie Rodriguez, originally called for fire inspections of the private residences of home school families. This aspect was withdrawn after an outpouring of opposition from voters across the state. The bill, although amended, continues to threaten the privacy of homeschool families in California. The bill states that all private home schools would be added to the existing publicly posted private school database. Not only does this bill pose a significant safety risk, but it also lays the groundwork for imposing further regulations on private home schools.

Staff in Assemblymember Medina's office state that this "data collection" bill is simply intended to gather more information on homeschooling families, but the data it aims to collect already exists at the California Department of Education. This bill, as it stands, only serves to waste legislator's time and tax dollars. The California Homeschool Network can only surmise that the bill was written with the intent to impose further regulations on already stringent private home school law.

Thousands of homeschooled children are thriving and enjoying an education outside of the traditional school system. There is no evidence that homeschoolers require more regulation in this state.

California's private home school regulation already exceeds that of many other states across the country and requires that families register their private home schools with the California Department of Education and that they offer the adopted course of study for the grades they teach, as identified in California Education Code.

The federal government and private think tanks have conducted hundreds of studies on

homeschooled students and results consistently show marked academic success and competent socialization skills when compared to students attending traditional schools. Homeschooling in California is not broken. It is unnecessary to waste time and to divert money away from public schools in an attempt to over regulate private home schools.

Voters from across the state have joined with homeschooling parents to express their discontent with these bills. In just three weeks California Homeschool Network has collected over 34,000 signatures on change.org asking for both AB 2756 & AB 2926 to be withdrawn. Public school parents have joined the efforts of homeschool families, making calls and sending emails.

Legislators from across the state have reported record numbers of calls in opposition to these bills. Parents with children in public school want to know why the legislature is choosing not to spend their time, money, and efforts on the struggling public schools that serve over 6 million students in California.

The heart of homeschooling is the ability for parents to offer an individualized education. For this reason, families from all across California will be making the trek to Sacramento on April 25th to voice their opposition in person. Their hope is that the authors of AB 2756 will withdraw their bill, now that they have learned more about homeschooling, and that they will instead choose to stand in support of the vastly diverse make-up of families that choose to home educate their children in our great state of California.

California Homeschool Network

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