

California Homeschool Network
Press Release

California Homeschoolers Fight Legislation While Teaching Civics To Their Children

California, April 9, 2018 - Two bills in the Assembly are prompting California homeschooling parents to become grassroots activists and make travel plans for Sacramento - and their children will accompany them while learning civics along the way.

AB 2756 and AB 2926 would make changes to existing law, and would create a child safety crisis by authorizing the state to publish private home addresses, emails, and phone numbers, on the California Department of Education website. These bills would study the feasibility of enacting new regulations, including inspecting private homes and investigating ways to restrict the successful methods homeschoolers currently use. Both bills were written in response to an abuse case out of Perris, California. David and Louise Turpin have been arrested for child abuse, and authorities say they were homeschooling their children under California's private school exemption. It is a horrific case and received worldwide attention because it was so unusual. California's homeschoolers note that abuse is not exclusive to homeschooling nor is there evidence of an unusual number of abuse cases involving homeschool families. Thousands of homeschooled children are enjoying education outside of the state's troubled public school system, with countless successful homeschool graduates contributing to California's workforce. Homeschooling law has remained the same in California for the past fifty years and has weathered several challenges, including a 2008 court case in which Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and then-Attorney General Jerry Brown issued statements in support of private homeschooling. There is no evidence that homeschooling is struggling. In fact, a study at Florida Institute of Technology reports that homeschoolers consistently score well above their public school peers on standardized tests, and those entering college maintain GPAs significantly above traditional school graduates. Graduation rates as well as college acceptance rates among homeschooled students is much higher than those same peers. The federal government and private think tanks have conducted hundreds of studies on homeschooled students and results consistently show marked academic success and improved socialization skills when compared to students in traditional schools.

Parents unhappy with the bills have made thousands of phone calls to their representatives, and many are headed to Sacramento April 25th to stand before the committee and state their opposition. Children accompanying their parents have the opportunity to witness our government in action, and many families have scheduled stops at the museum, tours of the capitol and visits with their district representatives during their trip. Homeschooling enables children to incorporate real-life experiences like this into their education along with frequent field trips, hands-on learning, and arts education that our cash strapped public schools have had to

cut in recent years. It allows families the flexibility to cater curriculum and pacing to each individual child's needs, which teachers credit as the ideal learning environment.

Voters across the state have joined with homeschooling parents to express their discontent with these bills. In two weeks, California Homeschool Network gathered over 25,000 signatures on a Change.org petition opposing both bills. Legislators across the state reported record numbers of phone calls and emails to their offices opposing these bills. Homeschool alumni across the state signed on to the California Homeschool Network website to state their occupations so legislators could see the diversity and success of homeschool graduates.

Homeschooling in California is not broken, in fact it may be the only type of schooling that does not need help in California. Homeschooling families, homeschool alumni and the public all know this. Families making the trek to Sacramento on the 25th are proud to share their state's history and government with their children, and they hope their government lives up to their expectations and drops these unjustified and unreasonable bills.

The Board of Trustees
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