

Foothills Private Home Educators

Mary Schultz – Director

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To: Assembly Committee on Education
From: Foothills Private Home Educators
Date: April 15th, 2021
Subj.: SB 1234, as amended, Johnson—Private Schools: Home Schools: Advisory Committee

Position: **OPPOSED as amended March 20th, 2021**

Please list Foothills Private Home Educators as OPPOSED to SB 1234 as amended March 20th, 2021.

There is no credible evidence that privately homeschooled children are more susceptible to abuse than other children,¹ nor that their education is deficient.² The evidence is to the contrary. Therefore, there is no rational basis for removing private homeschools from being a type (or species) of private schools, which has been legally done for the last 40 years.

There is no credible evidence to justify establishing a committee to “investigate” private homeschooling in California for the purpose of submitting a report to the Board of Education. The requirement that the committee consider additional regulations for private homeschooling ignores the following: (1) numerous studies conclude that private homeschoolers’ scores on standardized tests, on average, are equal to, and in many cases, higher than their public-school counterparts³; (2) privately homeschooled students in low and moderately regulated states like California score just as well as their counterparts in highly regulated states like Pennsylvania and New York⁴; and (3) private homeschoolers score higher overall on the SAT than the national average of all college-bound seniors.⁵

The requirement that the committee consider health and safety inspections of private homeschoolers is offensive and can only be based on the Scott family case, which implies all private homeschoolers are capable of what the Scotts are charged with doing. This is an insult to all the law-abiding private homeschoolers who provide a loving, healthy, and safe learning environment for their children. There is no evidence-based empirical research to support the false assumption that more regulation will reduce the level of abuse among homeschool students.⁶

To require the committee to consider specific curriculum standards again demonstrates a complete distrust of parents who homeschool privately. The academic genius of private homeschooling lies in allowing parents to choose curriculum that meets the individual needs of each student.⁷

To require the committee to consider forcing parents to be certified teachers ignores the research that clearly reveals that the children of non-credentialed parents do as well or better on standardized achievement tests than the children of credentialed parents.⁸

It is for the above reasons, and others, we respectfully ask that you vote no on AB 2926.

¹ See attached Dr. Brian D. Ray, “The Relationship Between the Degree of State Regulation of Homeschooling and the Abuse of Homeschool Children (Students),” NHERI, March 15, 2018.

² See attached Dr. Brian D. Ray, “Homeschool SAT Scores for 2014 Higher Than National Average,” NHERI, June 7, 2016.

³ Dr. Brian D. Ray, “Research Facts on Homeschooling,” NHERI, January 13, 2018, <https://www.nheri.org/research-facts-on-homeschooling/>.

⁴ See attached Dr. Brian D. Ray, *Home Education Reason and Research*, (Salem, OR: NHERI Publications, 2009), Pg. 4, Figs. 8a, 8b, and 9.

⁵ See attached “Homeschool SAT Scores for 2014 Higher Than National Average.”

⁶ See attached “The Relationship Between the Degree of State Regulation of Homeschooling and the Abuse of Homeschool Children (Students).”

⁷ See attached *Home Education Reason and Research*, Pg. 4, Fig. 8a.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Pg. 3, Fig. 7.

Who We Are: We are a group of parents who privately home educate our children in the Sacramento foothills area with over 50 member families. Our group has been in operation for over 10 years.