

June 22, 2024

The Honorable Representative Adam Mathews  
Ohio Statehouse  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Mathews and members of the Ohio House Public Health Policy Committee,

I am writing to request your support of H.B. 602.

My husband and I home educated our four children from kindergarten through high school graduation. An invaluable part of their education was the experiences and relationships provided by our home education support group.

Our group offered several opportunities that are traditionally available to students in schools such as science fairs, spelling bees, the Presidential Physical Fitness Challenge, and the National Geography Bee. These experiences fostered a love for learning and excellence in project-based-learning. Another critical academic component was the science labs for high school students that gave them practical hands-on experience.

Like many groups we offered biweekly classes on a diverse selection of academic and skill-based topics. It was a blessing to have parents who were passionate about subjects like art, crafts, math, writing, science, history, and fitness, invest in the lives of our children. They provided much needed objective feedback and inspired some of them in life-long interests.

The support group also was a place to develop friendships for our children as they interacted in classes and on field trips. We, as parents, also benefitted from the encouragement of other parents as we shared our home educating journey.

Recently the existing law RC 5104.01(K) was inappropriately applied to a small home education support group for the purpose of investigating the group for licensure purposes. The experiences and relationships provided by support groups are vital to home educators and are distinctly different from the day care setting. I respectfully request your support for the clarification provided in H.B. 602, which affirms the freedom of home-educating families to participate in a support group.

Respectfully,

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