



Home School Legal Defense Association

PRESIDENT	James R. Mason III, Esq. OR, DC
LEGAL DIRECTOR	Scott A. Woodruff, Esq. VA, MO
LITIGATION COUNSEL	Peter K. Kamakawiwoole, Esq. MO, VA
SENIOR COUNSEL	Darren A. Jones, Esq. CA, DC Thomas J. Schmidt, Esq. CA William A. Estrada, Esq. CA, DC
ATTORNEY	Amy R. Buchmeyer, Esq. WI Kevin M. Boden, Esq. WA
PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF COUNSEL	J. Michael Smith, Esq. VA Mary E. Schofield, Esq. CA Tom Sanders, Esq. TX

June 26, 2024

Chairman Adam Mathews
House Public Health Policy Committee
77 S High St
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chair Mathews and members of the Public Health Policy Committee:


My name is Amy Buchmeyer, and I am the staff attorney for Ohio at the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA). With roughly 100,000 member families, we are the world's largest homeschool advocacy organization. **HSLDA supports House Bill 602.**

Last year this legislature modernized the homeschool laws in Ohio with House Bill 33. The reforms brought greater freedom for parents to provide an education tailored to their child's individual needs. In doing so, the state recognized that parents are uniquely situated and responsible for the education of their child. As the U.S. Supreme Court famously found in *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*: "The child is not the mere creature of the State; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations."¹

For many parents, a crucial component of their homeschool includes gathering for social and academic instruction with other homeschooling families. Yet when doing so, parents can unwittingly run afoul of zoning and daycare laws—or rather, interpretations of these laws that are at odds with the flexibility provided to them within the homeschool law. As my colleague Darren Jones noted in his testimony, co-ops are most frequently shut down not because of educational reasons, but because of daycare or zoning laws that were not written with this form of flexible education in mind.

House Bill 602 supports the right of parents to direct the education of their children by providing necessary clarification to statutes that could be misapplied to long-standing educational strategies. In doing so, it follows the lead of other states across the country, which have recognized the importance of providing such clarity in state policies.

Sincerely Yours,



Amy Buchmeyer

¹ *Pierce v Society of Sisters*, 268 U.S. 510 (1924).

