



A Positive Voice for Your Values

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Dear Michigan Legislators and Members of the State Board of Education,

Citizens for Traditional Values (CTV) opposes any proposal forcing the registration or regulation of homeschool children in Michigan, as suggested by lawmakers, the Attorney General and the Superintendent of the State Board of Education.

Superintendent Rice's recent recommendation that the state mandate homeschool registration, purportedly in the interest of child safety, is egregious in the face of a total lack of actual facts supporting this allegation that homeschooling is less safe than a public-school education.

In fact, we know that the opposite is true. One only need look at the data shared by the National Center for Education Statistics.¹ Many parents choose to homeschool their children precisely to protect against the dangers present in public schools, such as violence, bullying, and sexual abuse.²

Dr. Rice suggests that the state should have *"a record of all children enrolled in all educational programs, for reasons of safety and to find those who are not being educated."*³

As it turns out, children most at risk of "not being educated" are actually those enrolled in public schools.⁴

It would seem that the state should be more concerned about the 30.8% (and 68% in the Detroit public schools)⁵ of children enrolled in the public school system who are not showing up to school—and that reading proficiency scores for our state's public school children have gone down^{6,7} despite more funding and resources directed to literacy.⁸

We believe it's incredibly important that children are safe and are learning in whatever environment their parents choose. Homeschooling allows families the flexibility to tailor their education to the specific needs of their children, creating a secure and nurturing environment.

Consider the following facts:

- There is a 0% correlation between abuse and homeschooling.⁹
- Homeschooling already has reasonable regulations in place that require parents to provide "an organized educational program" with numerous criteria ([MCL 380.1561 \(f\)](#)).

Creating cumbersome requirements for homeschooling does not benefit the children of Michigan in any meaningful way. But it could easily lead to the jeopardization of constitutionally protected parental rights, as outlined in Michigan's Revised School Code ([MCL 380.10](#)).

Fundamental parental rights and educational choice should be respected. CTV opposes any legislation based on unfounded claims that would impose a state-sanctioned registration or regulation of Michigan parents who choose to home educate their children.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Eileen McNeil
President, CTV

1. "School Crime Fast Facts" Nation Center for Education Statistics, <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=49>
2. Psychology Today, "Educator Sexual Misconduct Remains Prevalent in Schools. Study finds 11.7% of recent grads report educator sexual misconduct." Elizabeth L. Jeglic, Ph. D., May 17, 2023. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/protecting-children-from-sexual-abuse/202305/educator-sexual-misconduct-remains-prevalent-in>
3. Michigan Capitol Confidential, "State superintendent asks Michigan lawmakers for home school registry" Jamie Hope, January 17, 2024. <https://www.michigancapitolconfidential.com/news/state-superintendent-asks-michigan-lawmakers-for-home-school-registry>
4. 9&10 News, "New Report Gives Michigan Schools a Failing Grade" Eric Lloyd, January 10, 2023. <https://www.9and10news.com/2023/01/10/new-report-gives-michigan-schools-a-failing-grade/>
5. Bridge Michigan, "Chronic absenteeism in Michigan schools drops, but still higher since COVID" Lori Higgins, Hannah Dellinger, et al, October 10, 2023. <https://www.bridgemi.com/talent-education/chronic-absenteeism-michigan-schools-drops-still-higher-covid> ; https://news.yahoo.com/michigan-1-worst-states-students-124202542.html?fr=sycsrp_catchall&guccounter=1
6. The Nation's Report Card: 2022 Reading Trial Urban District Snapshot Report. <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/subject/publications/dst2022/pdf/2023010XR8.pdf>
7. Michigan Advance, "Report: Michigan stuck in bottom 10 states for 4th grade reading test scores" Allison Donahue, January 11, 2023. <https://michiganadvance.com/2023/01/11/report-michigan-stuck-in-bottom-10-states-for-4th-grade-reading-test-scores/>
- 8 Michigan Capitol Confidential, "Only 5% of Detroit 8th graders read at proficient level" Molly Macek, March 27, 2023. <https://www.michigancapitolconfidential.com/commentary/only-5-of-detroit-8th-graders-read-at-proficient-level>
9. "The Relationship Between the Degree of State Regulation of Homeschooling and the Abuse of Homeschool Children (Students)" Brian D. Ray, Ph.D., March 15, 2018, <https://www.nheri.org/degree-of-homeschool-regulation-no-relationship-to-homeschool-child-abuse/>