

To the Members of the Maryland Department of Education:

I am a Maryland resident and writing to express my strong opposition to any proposed changes to COMAR Title 13A that would impose a degree requirement on parents who choose to homeschool their children.

Under Maryland law—specifically Education Article §7-301—and the current regulations in COMAR 13A.10.01, families are entrusted with the right to provide home instruction without needing to hold a college degree or professional teaching credential. This system reflects long-standing constitutional principles affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Pierce v. Society of Sisters* (1925) and *Wisconsin v. Yoder* (1972), both of which protect the right of parents to direct the education and upbringing of their children. Most recently, *Mahmoud v. Taylor* (2025) reinforced this protection, warning against any effort by the state to “standardize its children by forcing them to accept instruction from public teachers only.”

Requiring parents to hold a degree would create an arbitrary and unnecessary barrier that would disqualify many capable families from homeschooling—particularly those from lower-income or nontraditional educational backgrounds. There is no evidence to support the idea that parental degrees improve educational outcomes in home education settings. In fact, research consistently shows that homeschooled students perform well across a wide spectrum of family educational backgrounds.

Such a requirement would not only increase the regulatory burden on families but would also raise serious constitutional questions and legal risks for the state. Homeschooling families already sacrifice financially and personally to educate their children in a way that meets their individual needs. Imposing new credentialing barriers would serve no public interest and would limit educational freedom for thousands of Maryland families.

I respectfully urge the Maryland State Department of Education to preserve the current framework and reject any proposals to require degrees or certification for homeschooling parents. Maryland’s regulations already provide sufficient oversight while respecting family autonomy and constitutional liberty.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Maryland Citizen and Parent