

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 home inspection requirements on families which 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 submitting to discriminatory inspection requirements. 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, emphasizing the constitutionally protected rights of parents in the education children.

Such a policy would undermine homeschooling and the freedom and educational prospects of children and their families. While activists have tried to claim that these policies are necessary to protect homeschooled children from abuse, this misidentifies the primary threats to children while undermining the rights of the families involved. Such schemes would place homeschooling families under what amounts to a presumption of guilt and under supervision - tantamount to that of convicts on parole - while undermining constitutional protections of due process and security from unreasonable searches. This plan would militate directly against the core constitutional presumptions of family law that supports fitness for parents.

Moreover, such an inspection regimen would also arbitrarily empower the inspecting officials to harass homeschooling families on the basis of personal dislike or other improper, irrelevant, or unconstitutional factors. This 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 discriminatory 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 inspections or other practices that discriminate against homeschooling families. Maryland's regulations already provide sufficient oversight while respecting family autonomy and constitutional liberty.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Maryland Citizen and Parent