

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 require homeschool families to use state-mandated curriculum.

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 intrusive curriculum mandates. 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.”

Such a policy would undermine homeschooling and the freedom and educational prospects of children and their families. The ability of homeschooling families to tailor their teaching to the individual needs of their children is central to its educational value and would be undermined by any effort to control curriculum.

This is still more true in the ethically and ideologically fraught areas covered by the state’s health curricula. Many homeschooling parents seek to educate their children in keeping with their social and religious values rather than those represented by the authors of state curricula. As the case of *Mahmoud v. Taylor* (2025) demonstrated, there is no room in American education law for policies that undermine the rights of parents to maintain their religious integrity in overseeing their children’s education.

Curriculum mandates would not only increase the regulatory burden on families and 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 homeschool families to subject their educational freedom to state curriculum mandates. Maryland’s regulations already provide sufficient oversight while respecting family autonomy and constitutional liberty.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Maryland Citizen and Parent

