

Please do not pass this proposed legislation to register private schools, K through 12. We, as parents and grandparents of school children, choose private schooling for our children consistent with our standards of religious beliefs and quality education opportunities not available within the public school system. We choose to spend our time, our money, and our expertise in many fields to ensure our children receive an education with a solid foundation on which to build their adult lives.

Parents have the God-given responsibility as well as the constitutional right to direct their childrens' education. Historically, parents in the early United States arranged for and directed the local schools in accordance with their religious (or not) standards. My understanding is that the Supreme Court of the United States has already ruled that private schools are covered by the right to religious freedom outlined by the first and fourteenth amendments to the US Constitution.

In addition, none of the concerns outlined in the bill, such as safety, health, intolerable behavior, etc seem to be a problem in private schools; however, public schools seem to spend much time and effort combating these kinds of issues which do not contribute to education.

On a personal level, both our parents sent us to private schools, K through 12, at great financial and personal sacrifice. Thankfully, we received a superior education and solid foundation on which to build our adult lives and pass along to our children. Our parents and we, in turn, will never "butt out of our childrens' education – as one principal commented to me.