

Yes

House Education Committee,

I am writing in favor of HB 1472. I share my testimony with you in hopes that you can see the benefits to children learning in a “microschool” environment. I currently participate in a home school co-op setting where both of my children, 6 and 9 years of age are being educated. It would be considered a “microschool” and I have personally witnessed extreme growth in both of my children, however I will be sharing the benefit of this type of education and its effects on my 9-year-old.

My 9-year-old has been diagnosed with severe Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, and Irlen Syndrome. You may or may not be familiar with some if not all of these diagnoses, but I would like to share that 1 in 5 children are affected by Dyslexia. The small co-op setting has allowed my son to be met where he is currently at academically and gives him adequate time for learning concepts to digest and be understood fully before moving onto the next lesson or even repeating lessons if need be. It also allows versatility in learning avenues such as technology with screen filters to help with his Irlen Syndrome or catering to him with verbal testing due to his writing being affected by his Dysgraphia. I believe adaptation to giving students a strong foundation in fully understanding what they’re learning is the correct path in creating healthy individuals.

By participating in this style of education, he has built confidence in his ability to thrive and his desire to learn because he comprehends it better and connects one concept

to the next. We currently use a Classical Christian Curriculum that anyone would have a hard time finding an area in which our children are lacking, I would argue it is the opposite and take pride in knowing it's value in fluency that they're receiving one year to the next.

Aside from the growth in his confidence in learning, this smaller co-op style setting has allowed him to be surrounded by peers who offer encouragement and help rather than the "bullying" in the larger school settings that he has previously participated in. It also allows each child to be viewed individually and highlights the strengths in a positive light but also normalizes weaknesses and the effort everyone can make to help lead one another into success.

It has modeled what I believe each of us would desire in a personal preference of life if we had a choice. Smaller peer numbers around you to foster an intimacy allowing a comfortability in recognizing and or normalizing asking for help, being surrounded by encouragement, attentiveness, and feeling comfortable in who you are with those you're surrounded by daily. Every child deserves this opportunity to grow in ways that fit them, and you would be providing opportunity to many in voting yes to HB1472.

Thank you for your consideration,

Emily Hewitt