

Testimony in Support of House Bill No. 1532
From Matthew J. Voeller
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I adamantly support the passage of House Bill No. 1532.

My wife and I have five children. We believe children are our future. The primary responsibility to educate our children belongs to parents. Life is full of lessons. Some lessons come from books (the Bible being the most important book). Some lessons come from participation in activities (music, clubs, sports, etc). Some lessons come from travel. Through all of these (and countless unnamed others)...parents are primarily responsible for educating their children on the 'so what' of everything they learn.

We have made Jesus Christ a focus of our children's education. We do this through daily prayer in our house, the giving of our time/talents/treasures to organizations & people in need, taking an active role in our church community, and the education of our children. We are fully committed to providing our children a Catholic education at our amazing Catholic schools (four at Christ the King and one at School of the Holy Family). We sacrifice a lot to be able to fund this education, but the return on investment isn't reflected in dollars in a bank account. It is the saving of their souls for all eternity and their future contributions to society as citizens of God with a strong moral compass grounded in traditional family values and universal truths from the Bible.

Private schools work hard to prepare our children to be successful in life and in society. Teachers and administrators at these schools do more with less while ensuring students meet secular educational requirements as well as the needs of developing souls. Many of the problems this country is facing is due to a lack of the faith-based education that used to be everywhere. Dating back to the first organized schools in ancient Egypt and Greece, students were primarily instructed on the religious beliefs and practices necessary to live a good life. As times changed, educational systems morphed to create good citizens...students were taught skills that benefited the society (not the individual) in its quest to grow power, advance science, build economics, etc. This change came with a cost. Educational systems began to neglect the soul that is so vital to a healthy person. The United States is teetering on a point of no return. This is evident through skyrocketing violent crime rates, immoral sexual manipulation of children, broken families, drug use, obesity, and a general worshiping of material goods.

This is why my wife and I have decided to educate our children in a program that focuses on the soul. Our kids benefit in this environment as they are not exposed to the secular agenda that is changing the fabrics of the United States society. Our choice will benefit society, in the end, as upon graduation they will have the same basic skills as their public-school counterparts, but not at the sacrifice of our Catholic values.

This bill is necessary to allow parents who have made the same choice as we have to benefit in a small way to the investment we are making in our children's future.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Please do everything within your power to see this bill successfully pass the house, senate, and be signed into law.

God bless you all for your work!!

Matt and Janelle Voeller