

Beverly Howard

STATE IMPOSED RHSP:

CUMBERLAND COUNTY ILLINOIS COUNTY BOARD

RESOLUTION # 25-08

OPPOSING HB2827: DEFENDING PARENTAL RIGHTS AND EDUCATION FREEDOMS

WHEREAS, House Bill 2827, introduced February 5, 2025, in the 104 Illinois General Assembly proposes the creation of the "Homeschool Act" and provides for unprecedented State overreach into the jurisdiction of the home and private schools.

WHEREAS, if enacted and enforced, HB2827 would infringe upon the full and free exercise of certain freedoms and civil liberties guaranteed in the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights as commonly and historically expressed through the natural, *a priori* rights of parents to direct, define, determine, design, and delegate the education of their children.

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has affirmed the fundamental right and liberty of parents to direct the education and upbringing of their children in such cases as *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 268 U.S. 510 (1925) and *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57 (2000)

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has long recognized homeschooling as a legitimate form of private education, as affirmed in *People v. Levisen*, 404 Ill. 574 (Ill. 1950)

WHEREAS, if enacted and enforced, HB2827 would cause a chilling effect on educational practices that would otherwise lead to progress, innovation and discovery of new and better means of education, education systems and methodologies and would, therefore, also stifle the natural evolution of education and society.

WHEREAS, the synopsis of HB2827 declares that the justification for the bill is a presupposition that some homeschoolers use home education as a cover for abuse and neglect and therefore all home educators should be subjected to annual registration requirements with short 3 and/or 10 day filing windows, parental credentialing requirements, mandated portfolio creation and portfolio reviews, state oversight of curriculums, undefined standards arbitrated by unelected officials, private interviews of minor children and all under threat of fines and penalties that can include referral to DCFS, removal of children from the home, 30 days' jail time and criminal truancy charges and referral to the State's Attorney; which is diametrically opposite to fundamental American legal principles, Fifth Amendment protections and Due Process.

WHEREAS, Existing truancy and child welfare laws, including those enforced by truant officers and the Department of Children and Family Services already provide mechanisms to address isolated incidences of educational neglect or abuse, rendering broad new regulations duplicative and excessively burdensome to law-abiding families, and that legislative efforts to ensure child safety should utilize these established structures, enhancing their enforcement where necessary rather than creating new regulatory frameworks that penalize the majority for the actions of the few.

WHEREAS, HB2827 mandates annual registration of homeschool and private school students including an expandable data set of detailed student information that includes, but is not limited to: name, date of birth, grade level, home address, guardian contact information and guardian home address, and since this information may be tied to sectarian schools or various religious or ethnic affiliations a plausible fear arises that the data set could be used for selective scrutiny and discrimination of targeted groups.

WHEREAS, HB2827 requires homeschool instruction to be substantially equivalent to the curriculum prescribed by the Illinois State Board of Education. It would subject homeschool families to evolving public school standards that may be altered at any time by administrative rule without legislative oversight or public input, raising serious concerns about family autonomy, philosophical and religious freedom, and the potential for future mandates that conflict with the values and instructional approaches of individual families.

WHEREAS, the bill grants discretionary authority to regional education officials to request reviews of homeschool educational portfolios without clearly defined criteria or cause, raising the risk of selective and arbitrary enforcement and the potential for discrimination against families based on educational philosophy, religious beliefs or other personal factors.

WHEREAS, HB2827 may impose a disproportionate burden on families with limited financial resources and formal education, as well as those pursuing nontraditional educational models thereby undermining equitable access to alternative education and marginalizing communities who rely on flexible approaches to instruction.

WHEREAS, the legislation creates new obligations for Regional Offices of Education and other local authorities without corresponding funding or support constituting an unfunded mandate that may strain already limited resources, reduce efficiency, and divert attention from other critical educational and student support services.

WHEREAS, the County Board stands in solidarity with their constituents and the homeschool and private school families across Illinois, who as of April 10, 2025, have filed over 125,000 combined witness slips in opposition to the bill.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Cumberland County Board as follows:

- 1) The Cumberland County Board firmly opposes any expansion of state authority that undermines the ability of parents to tailor educational approaches to the individual needs, values, and beliefs of their children, viewing such mandates as intrusive into the private spheres of family life and education.
- 2) The Cumberland County Board affirms the right to define, determine, design, direct and delegate the education of children is fundamental and *a priori* to the parents and families to which the children belong and not to the State.
- 3) The Cumberland County Board firmly opposes HB2827 and any similar legislation that would infringe on the rights of parents and guardians to direct the education of their children or that would impose burdensome and intrusive mandates on homeschool and private educational institutions.
- 4) The Cumberland County Board declares that any such enacted legislation that infringes on Constitutional liberties or civil liberties as set forth in the Bill of Rights shall not be enforced in Cumberland County, IL, and that Cumberland County, IL shall become a 'Sanctuary County' for the protection of homeschool and private school freedoms in such cases.

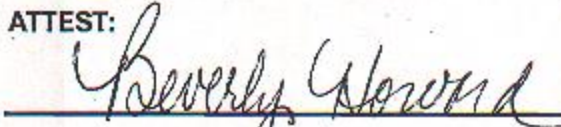
ADOPTED by the Cumberland County Board:

This 13th DAY OF May, 2025.



Cumberland County Board Chairman

ATTEST:



Cumberland County Clerk