

Melinda Swagger

From: Public Comments
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 10:15 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Public Comments on HB 2777

Contact Info: name - Nikola Pearson, email - want2compete@yahoo.com, phone number - (304) 728-4027, org - , zip-code - 25438

Date of Submission: 03/18/2025

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support for the all the changes this bill proposes. In the past, the Terra Nova test was the standardized test used, but since the past couple years, it has become unavailable. Being able to use other tests such as the PSAT, SAT, ACT, and CLP would be excellent alternative options.

In addition, the requirement of a high school diploma to instruct is unnecessary considering the multitude of homeschool options available that provide curricula, parent lesson plans, and answer keys. There are also co-ops or online options with instructors who would meet the requirement or beyond.

Lastly, the changes for the NOI are good in making it easier for parents to submit, especially if it's to be sent to the state superintendent instead of the county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Melinda Swagger

From: Public Comments
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 10:14 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Public Comments on HB 2777

Contact Info: name - Jennifer Smith, email - Jlsmith8807@gmail.com, phone number - , org - , zip-code - 26164

Date of Submission: 03/18/2025

Parents, not the government, have the fundamental right to direct their children's education. The current requirements- such as mandatory assessment submissions and proof of parental qualifications- imply that the state has the authority to judge a parent's ability to educate their children. This is not only unnecessary but also an overreach of power. Homeschooling parents already take full responsibility for their children's education, and they should not have to prove their capability to government officials.

The requirement to submit academic progress is an example of this overreach. It assumes that the government must monitor homeschoolers to ensure their success, despite the fact that homeschooling consistently produces well-educated, well-rounded individuals. Parents are more than capable of evaluating their children's progress without the state's oversite. By removing this requirement, HB 2777 restores the trust that should exist between families and the government.

I ask, please take our rights into consideration. Thank you and God bless you.

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From: Public Comments
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 10:12 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Public Comments on HB 2777

Contact Info: name - Wendilee Boden, email - wboden@protonmail.com, phone number - , org - , zip-code - 25430

Date of Submission: 03/18/2025

I encourage the House Education Committee to support H.B. 2777. As a West Virginia resident and homeschooled parent this bill would take away some unnecessary requirements for home educators and students. The removal of the requirement for subject matter requirements would help use my time and resources in a better way for my students. In order for my high school students to have higher education opportunities and scholarships they need to take the CLT/SAT/ACT. The current WV law does not allow submission of these tests because of the subject requirement. Therefore, my students are required to take extra tests and we have an extra expenditure of funds.

I have homeschooled in three countries and six states. This is the first time I have been required to submit a high school diploma. This is an outdated requirement that does not have bearing on the value of education the homeschooled student receives.

Thank you for your service to the state of West Virginia!

Melinda Swagger

From: Public Comments
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 9:43 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Public Comments on HB 2777

Contact Info: name - Kimberly Pyron, email - Kimp5alive@gmail.com, phone number - , org - , zip-code - 25414

Date of Submission: 03/18/2025

Please pass Bill 2777 on behalf of homeschool parents of WV. Homeschool parents need to the support of the state.

Melinda Swagger

From: Public Comments
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 9:38 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Public Comments on HB 2777

Contact Info: name - Caroline, email - Cheetahambala@outlook.com, phone number - , org - , zip-code - 25414

Date of Submission: 03/18/2025

I encourage the H.B.2777 to be passed. As a graduating homeschool student and registered voter in the state of West Virginia the passing of this bill would greatly help homeschool parents like my mother to be able to educate their children in the way that they wish. It is much harder than it needs to be for parents to have their special needs kids home or simply keep any children at home for their education.

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From: Public Comments
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 9:37 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Public Comments on HB 2777

Contact Info: name - Rachel Bishop, email - rachelannbishop@gmail.com, phone number - , org - , zip-code - 25414

Date of Submission: 03/18/2025

Please consider passing this bill for homeschoolers.

Melinda Swagger

From: Public Comments
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 8:05 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Public Comments on HB 2777

Contact Info: name - Kevin Boden, email - Kevin.boden@hslda.org, phone number - (830) 313-1082, org - Home School Legal Defense Association, zip-code - 25430

Date of Submission: 03/18/2025

Thank you for opportunity to comment on H.B. 2777.

This bill makes several positive changes to the home education law and I urge the committee to support this bill.

I want to address a few specific provisions of the bill.

First, the removal of parent qualification to homeschool is a positive step. Currently, **42 states do not require homeschool parents to meet any specific teacher qualifications**. Meaning, WV is one of only 8 states that have a requirement for a high school diploma or GED for a parent to home educated a child. States are moving away from these outdated and frankly, irrelevant requirements, such as Ohio which repealed the qualification requirement in 2023. Notably, the WV Hope Scholarship Program has no such requirement.

Some states (CA, KS, NY) require home school teachers to be “competent,” “qualified,” or “capable of teaching.” In California, Kansas, and New York, less than a GED is recognized as competent. New York parents who comply with the home instruction regulation are deemed “competent.”

Second, eliminating the subject matter requirements in the standardized testing assessment option is positive.

Across the nation, I could locate only two other states that have subject matter requirements: NC and MN. North Carolina requires the standardized test to cover “English grammar, reading, spelling, and mathematics.” Minnesota requires basic communication skills including reading and writing, literature, and fine arts; mathematics and science; social studies including history, geography, economics, government, and citizenship; and health and physical education.

Having such a requirement also excludes tests such as the SAT and Classical Learning Test (CLT) from meeting the requirement of the state code. This is especially odd in 11th grade when many students are taking these college predatory tests in contemplation of college, particular the PSAT which is only available in 11th grade.

Third, the online portal will be helpful for many families in submitting their information.

There have been many cases across the state regarding missing files, a dispute over whether a NOI or particular assessment has been submitted. The creation of an option portal will help to alleviate these concerns for families and counties that have them.

H.B. 277 is good for homeschool families, good for student, good for the state and good for educational freedom in WV.

I urge the committee to pass H.B. 2777.

Melinda Swagger

From: Public Comments
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 11:41 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Public Comments on HB 2777

Contact Info: name - Lauren Whitaker, email - rsw153@gmail.com, phone number - , org - , zip-code - 25414

Date of Submission: 03/17/2025

Please vote yes to HB2777. I sent a message earlier this evening for how this bill would benefit our homeschool. Thank you!

Melinda Swagger

From: Public Comments
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 11:17 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Public Comments on HB 2777

Contact Info: name - Penelope D'Angelo, email - p.dangelo@comcast.net, phone number - (681) 677-4002, org - , zip-code - 25414

Date of Submission: 03/17/2025

I support House Bill 2777. I believe the changes will have a positive impact on homeschooling families and are a much needed update for the state of West Virginia. It streamlines submissions for greater efficiency.

I would appreciate your support on this bill as well.

Sincerely,

Penelope D'Angelo

Melinda Swagger

From: Public Comments
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 10:46 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Public Comments on HB 2777

Contact Info: name - Lauren Whitaker, email - rsw153@gmail.com, phone number - (814) 574-6550, org - , zip-code - 25414

Date of Submission: 03/17/2025

The passing of this bill would be an enormous benefit for our homeschool. Specifically, in the fact that the bill would eliminate subject matter requirements for standardized testing. My highschooler is taking the SAT but currently that is not accepted as the required standardized testing so we need to take extra time and resources to either do a different test as well or a portfolio review.

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From: Public Comments
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 10:33 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Public Comments on HB 2777

Contact Info: name - Shauna Azar, email - shaunaazar@gmail.com, phone number - (304) 261-7987, org - , zip-code - 25430

Date of Submission: 03/17/2025

I am writing in support of HB2777. I support this bill for many reasons, but mostly to allow valid tests such as the SAT and the CLT to be used as assessments. It will also streamline the NOI process. Please vote yes!

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From: Public Comments
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 8:54 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Public Comments on HB 2777

Contact Info: name - Lora Farley, email - lorarfarley@gmail.com, phone number - (304) 633-6186, org - Homeschool Family, zip-code - 25705

Date of Submission: 03/17/2025

Please kindly remove the restrictions and allow homeschooling families to teach their children, without numerous restrictions.

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From: Public Comments
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 6:48 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Public Comments on HB 2777

Contact Info: name - Rose Phillips, email - roosephillips10@gmail.com, phone number - (304) 931-9626, org - , zip-code - 26440

Date of Submission: 03/17/2025

I have been homeschooling for 4 years and I really enjoy it. My girls love it and I'd like to leave it as it is. They have learned so much more, and I don't want any outside interference with their education.

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From: Public Comments
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 10:59 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Public Comments on HB 2777

Contact Info: name - Frieda DeBerry, email - Plst2cu@aol.com, phone number - , org - , zip-code - 26404

Date of Submission: 03/18/2025

I am writing to express my thoughts on HB2777.

I had to resubmit at least 3 times the same exact information to the County Board of Education. They simply couldn't find the documents I had submitted, and had proof of having done so.

I believe in having children vaccinated. But I don't believe they should be forced as some children do have adverse reactions.

I think WV has too stringent requirements for homeschooling. Homeschooling has less restrictions in the same state! Homeschooling in WV needs less oversight here as many states across the United States have done or have adopted.

‘Thank you.