



Home School Legal Defense Association

House Education Committee

Iowa House of Representatives

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RE: HSLDA SUPPORTS HF 2366

Dear Chair Wheeler and members of the Committee:

Home School Legal Defense Association supports HF 2366. I will briefly address several criticisms of the bill voiced in the subcommittee hearing.

Several criticisms seemed to be based on the erroneous idea that various individuals and entities connected with public education have overarching responsibility with respect to Independent Private Instruction (IPI) and Competent Private Instruction (“home schooling”). They do not. Their responsibilities regarding home schooling are very limited and tightly circumscribed by law to preserve home schooling as a truly independent form of education.

Some witnesses implied that this bill repealed immunization requirements. It does not. It merely deletes the requirement to put that private health information on the “report” required under Iowa Code 299.4.

A witness challenged the removal of the current requirement in 299.4 that the “report” include a family’s plans for textbooks, lesson plans, subjects, and student time spent on each subject. This information serves utterly no purpose, however, because the two sets of officials who move this paperwork around have no function to perform—no judgement or evaluation to make—as to that information after receiving it.

There was criticism about removing the provision in 299A.1(2)(b) that defines IPI as a program that does not charge fees. This code chapter relates to compulsory attendance, not business enterprises. The “no fee” part of the definition has no place in a statute dealing with compulsory attendance. An IPI program that charges fees is likely to be subject to other laws, but those laws do not need to be coupled to the compulsory attendance law to perform their intended functions.

There was a criticism about affording full faith and credit to high school diplomas issued after graduation from a home school program, i.e., what such a diploma “means”. The strength of any high school diploma can be gauged by the high school transcript that reflects what the student studied and the level of their achievements. While HF 2366 requires nondiscriminatory treatment of high school diplomas, it does not prohibit any entity from seeking a high school transcript.

I urge you to support HF 2366 as written.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Woodruff, Senior Counsel

