



6/9/2003

Assemblyman Steven Sanders
Chairman, Committee on Education

Dear Assemblyman Sanders,

I am writing to you regarding legislation recently sent from the NY Senate to the NY Assembly Education Committee. S2060 "A bill to impose certain standards and procedures."

As you well know, "governments are established among men (and women) to protect their inalienable rights."

The Senate Education Committee created S2060, in an attempt to address some of the burdens imposed by CR100.10, which was promulgated by the Commissioner of Education 1988 without statutory, direction or authorization, by the New York Legislature.

However, this legislation continues to impose some procedures that, while necessary for operation of the state institutional bureaucracy, are totally inappropriate for the Home Educational environment. This burdensome imposition interferes with the child's Constitutionally protected right to the educational diversity that is available for their parent to provide outside of these restrictions.

It further fails to provide for protection from Department of Social Services interference. This currently has resulted in hostile arbitrary decision by a supervisor and subsequently a Family Court order that has stripped a NY family of the right to direct the education of their child. This was simply because of failure to provide forms and reports to the local district in a required time frame.

Additionally, it allows the continuance of discrimination caused by the unique monopolistic control of diplomas by the State Education Department. Diplomas are only a certification of minimal preparation for college admissions or entrance into the job market. They do not quantify the holder's "ability to benefit" or "perform" in college or employment.

I am the recent past President of Loving Education At Home, Inc. (1995-2001) and LEAH Legislative Liaison (1993-2001) and remain in contact with Home Educators across the state. There are many that consider the reasons stated above are more than sufficient reason to hold this bill in committee and let it die. They would much rather wait for a bill that comprehensively addresses all of the challenges to the right of the family to direct the upbringing and education of their children rather than settle for what has been termed a paper reduction act.

As a taxpayer and as a NY Home Educator "pioneer" (1978-1990) I am convinced that the NY legislature is capable of producing legislation that will protect and respect (rather than police and suspect) the parent child relationship. The state that generously trusts families in their exercise of fundamental relationship freedoms will be the recipient of greater trust by the citizens who have authorized its existence.

Based on the reasons above and others not expressed due to respect for your limited time on this matter I urge you to hold this legislation S2060/A4598 in committee. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paul S. Matte'.

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