



SERVING HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES SINCE 1987

25 February 2025

Re: HB 5034

Committee Members,

My name is Andrea Edwards and I am the Legislative Representative for The Rhode Island Guild of Home Teachers (RIGHT). We are one of the two largest homeschool support groups in the state. We recently submitted a testimony supporting this bill, followed by a letter to various representatives with the intent to oppose it. However, after further review we see the importance of the freedom to discuss items which aren't on an agenda. We would consider returning to a position of support if the language below is added. It is essential the community has ample notice of all topics to be discussed at school committee meetings, irregardless of them being voted on, especially if those items will come to a vote at a future meeting. Therefore, to ensure this happens, we recommend the following:

“For any point(s) of discussion(s) which is/are not on the agenda for a given meeting which is/are brought forth during any school committee meeting, it shall be required that any and all of these items will be on a minimum of one additional school committee agenda, for discussion only, followed by a potential vote at the next meeting. In addition, the details of the discussion at the meeting at which the topic(s) were first initiated will be included in the minutes of that meeting despite the topic not being included on the agenda, and those minutes must be posted prior to the posting of the agenda for the next school committee meeting.”

After watching the discussion on 02/12/2025 it became clear to me that most of the voting members are in favor of this bill. So rather than try to oppose something that was clearly heading toward passing, our hope is to support it with language that would resolve the potential issues we anticipate occurring. The above ensures that we, as homeschool advocates, are able to review any and all items related to our community members and have the time and availability to present our positions prior to a vote.

We thank you for your consideration of our request and for your service to our state.

Andrea Edwards, Legislative Representative joined by Jennifer Curry, State Coordinator