

This information was prepared by Ohio Home Education Coalition, an open and inclusive coalition of interested homeschoolers who come together to raise awareness of issues facing homeschoolers in Ohio. This is not an interactive email address. As we are all busy with our families, individual responses would be impossible. However if someone wants to be added to this list, they can send an email to the OHEC address with: "Add my name" in the subject. Provide full name and an email address in the text. If you do not want to receive future emails from OHEC, please send an email to OHEC's email address with "Remove my name" in the subject. Thanks.

May 3, 2003

Akron Beacon Journal
44 East Exchange Street
Akron, OH 44328

To the Editor:

Your recent report on a legislator's concern of homeschoolers and any purported link to child abuse begs response.

In this report, you point out the timeliest motive for a few school superintendents, the state superintendent, and Rep. John Carey to again beat this contrived drum against homeschooling—that is, the financial bleed to public education caused by charter schools. That must be coupled with the legislative faltering to fund public schools equitably, despite four Ohio Supreme Court decisions. Red ink might make anyone desperate—enough to attack a group of hard working, independent, innocent families, creating suspicion where none exists. Enrollment equals funding, even if it is one child at a time. A subsequent day's heartbreaking report described a situation that, if proven, warrants all penalties imposed on parents who abuse their children. However, if abuse is proven, these children were well known already to children services investigators and they fell through the cracks. The complaints to CSB were "many." The reported abuse these children suffered has nothing to do with the type of schooling they were receiving.

We can only imagine that when a child who is enrolled in public school is abused, your reports would not even note their educational status—unless, of course, a trusted individual in the school community abuses that child. Abuse is a tragedy, period. But, no matter how many laws the state implements, sadly abuse continues. It has as much to do with school enrollment as with homeschooling, which is to say not at all.

Over the 14 years since the Ohio regulations that govern homeschooling were passed, hundreds of thousands of children have homeschooled successfully. Parents have succeeded without taking a dime from the state. (So your readers understand, those now enrolling in publicly-funded charter schools are public school students and are not homeschooling. The state requires a notice as such by charter schools.)

A time-honored legal axiom is hard cases make bad law. Another is innocent until proven guilty. With a long, honorable track record by thousands of homeschoolers, it would be wrong for the state to require any additional regulatory control.

Sincerely,

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