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From: Peggy Daly-Masternak  
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2003 1:43 PM  
To: Tammi Jordan  
Subject: Homeschooling question

Dear Ms. Jordan, You may recall that we met last year at a hearing in Columbus. You invited me at that time to contact you when I had a question about homeschooling in Ohio with which ODE or you might be able to assist. Specifically, I am looking to determine at this time total numbers of homeschoolers in Ohio and any trend data, let's say, for the last five years or so. Ten years would actually be better if available readily. I would like to know how that data was collected as well. Specifically, the data should not contain any students who are enrolled in on-line community schools as they are enrolled students in public school and not homeschoolers, despite where their education takes place. Is this data available? Sincerely, Peggy Daly-Masternak

From: "Jordan, Tammi"  
Date: Mon Sep 22, 2003 01:59:04 PM US/Eastern  
To: Peggy Daly-Masternak  
Subject: RE: Homeschooling question

Yes, I clearly remember meeting you and often refer to your efforts to help ensure homeschoolers in Ohio maintain a voice in legislation. Just a week ago I spoke to a support group in Canton where I told them how strong yet diverse the homeschooling community is in Ohio. I assured them that your voices are heard and encouraged them to continue to speak for the rights of children.

No such data is maintained in Ohio. Districts have never been required to submit numbers to ODE. Therefore, we have no idea how many homeschoolers exist in Ohio. Scott Somerville, HSLDA boasts that he represents 3,615 families in Ohio and that his numbers have grown steadily. However, we have no idea how many children are represented in those families and not every family will choose to join their association. Since I began t ODE 2 years ago, the number 60,000 has been thrown around but I have never determined from where that number derived. The only study that I know was down in Ohio was commissioned by CHEO a couple of years ago. It discussed attitudes and achievement of homeschoolers not numbers. The study was based upon about 1300 responding families. TCJ