



February 22, 2017

Dear Senator:

Thank you for meeting with NCHEA members today during our annual NCHEA Legislative Day. We appreciate you listening to their concerns about home education and other issues.

Home education is working well in Nebraska. Not everyone homeschools, but nearly everyone knows someone who does. For more than 30 years, home education has functioned well under the current homeschool law. Rule 13 acknowledges home education for both religious reasons and the parents' right to direct their child(ren)'s education, with parents notifying the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) they are home educating their children. Rule 13 gives NDE the option to test if evidence shows education is not taking place.

Enclosed with this letter in your packet is a brief history of home education in Nebraska and summaries of three homeschool studies:

- ***A Historical Perspective on Home Education and Parental Rights in Nebraska***
- ***Home Schooling Achievement***, HSLDA by Brian D. Ray, PhD., National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI)
- ***Homeschooling Grows Up***, HSLDA by Brian D. Ray, PhD., NHERI
- ***Homeschool Progress Report 2009***, HSLDA by Brian D. Ray, PhD., NHERI
- ***Research Facts on Homeschooling***, 2013, by Brian D. Ray, PhD., NHERI

The studies show many remarkable things about home education, including that 1) the average home educated student performs above the 80th percentile on standardized tests, 2) student performance does not depend on education level of parents, family income, educational certification of parents, money spent per child, race of parents, gender of students, 3) home education performance does not vary by the level of state regulation, hence home education is not improved by more regulation, and 4) home educated children are very active, well socialized, and civically involved.

Parents find Nebraska to be a pleasant place to homeschool their children under the current law and rules but this has not always been the case. As a result, homeschool parents become very concerned when legislation or draft rules changes threaten to encroach on or reduce their existing liberties.

In view of the above, the NCHEA and homeschool parents across Nebraska only ask that there be no increase in the regulation of home education via legislation or rule making. Homeschooling works! Don't fix it if it isn't broke!

God bless,

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