

November 18, 2024

Dear Home Education Advisory Council Members,

I'm writing this letter as a means to be on record. I am a veteran home educator, Homeschool Advocate, and leader in Granite State Home Educators and Christian Home Educators of NH and Southern Maine. As you probably know, I have also served time on HEAC and am familiar with its duties and role as strictly advisory to the Commissioner.

As we move into a hostile legislative session for home education freedom, it's of utmost importance that RSA193-A home educators are represented in the fullest capacity possible in order to protect our legal rights.

To this end, I'd like to request your attention to these matters specifically at this time:

As per RSA193-A:10

1. 1 (c) The following individuals who shall be appointed by the commissioner of the department of education from persons named as follows:
  - (1) Six members nominated by home educator associations organized within New Hampshire.

Please provide clarification as to the organized home educator associations that are represented by each member.

As HEAC is legally under the purview of RSA193-A, or the third pathway in RSA 193:1, independent, unfunded, traditional (non-EFA) home education, this necessitates Representatives who are nominated by "organized home educator associations" to also be operating as or representative of this legal pathway. To be clear, Home Education pathway organizations and the Representatives nominated to HEAC must fall under this category. EFA homeschoolers or EFA advocates are not eligible for seats on HEAC.

Please provide clarification as to the educational pathway status of Representatives.

As an EFA advisory board, the Children's Scholarship Fund's resources, advocacy, and support all exist separately from HEAC and its representative functions, it is the position of Granite State Home Educators and Christian Home Educators of NH and Southern Maine that transparency on these aforementioned issues is mandatory. HEAC is not an EFA outlet for support or advocacy.

The EFA has a separate parent-educator advisory committee, a seven-member group created in the EFA statute, RSA 194-F. It is not open to the public or following the Right to Know law, RSA 91-A.

The EFA pathway must be diligently separated from Home Education. The interests of Home Education families in NH are at stake here, and it is imperative to clearly and quickly respond to any doubts on this matter.

These are but a few examples of real, recent situations that necessitates such diligence:

- Republican Representative Moffett expressed agreement with Democrat Representatives on homeschoolers “falling through the cracks” while discussing the EFA at a public event.
- Introduction of a universal EFA bill by Republican sponsors for 2025.
- Talk of lowering the compulsory attendance age to 5.
- Talk of adding graduation requirements to home education law.
- Constant conflation of Home Education and EFA pathways by legislators.
- Confusion surrounding legal daycare licensure requirements due to lower age qualification for EFA homeschoolers.

It is my position that these matters are all tied together, and it is my sincere effort to advocate in the best interests of Home Educators by bringing them to your attention. The cancellation of the November session paired with the urgency of these matters necessitates this letter.

I am available for discussion and hope to be in attendance for December's meeting.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Weeden  
Home Education Advocate  
Granite State Home Educators  
Christian Home Educators of NH and Southern Maine