



SAMPLE LETTER TO YOUR LEGISLATOR

The sample letter below shows the correct format for addressing your State Legislators. Whether you send an email, mail a physical letter, or make a phone call, remember to always be respectful and communicate as a true ambassador for Christ (2nd Corinthians 5:20). Personalize your letter to best address your specific concerns or issues, and know that your communication to your elected officials truly does make an impact.

You can find your Michigan State Senator here: <https://senate.michigan.gov/FindYourSenator/>

You can find your Michigan State Representative here: <https://www.house.mi.gov>

Return Address	Your Name Address City, MI. Zip Code
Date	[Insert Date]
Legislator's Address	The Honorable [Insert Legislator's Name] Address City, MI. Zip Code
Salutation	Dear Senator/Representative [Insert Last Name]:
Introduce yourself: your name, where you are from, and any background info, and then state your concern.	My name is [Insert Your Name] and I reside at [Insert Your Address] in [Insert Your City]. I am writing to <i>express my concern.../ thank you for.../ request that you</i>
Explain your concern or request	I am writing you to <i>ask that you help/express my concern</i> [Be specific with your suggestion, idea or request. If you are writing about a specific Bill, include the Bill Number - for example, H.B. 1234 or. S.B. 321]
Ask for a response	I appreciate your help and ask that you please send me a response letting me know <i>how you plan to vote?/if this is an issue we continue to work on together?/ what next steps you will be taking?, etc...</i>
Thank your Legislator	Thank you for your time and consideration,
Closing with your name	Sincerely, [Insert Your Name]



What's at Stake Right Now

What MI Families Stand to Lose	What the State Stands to Gain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Best Protections for Homeschooling in the Nation: MI currently leads in protecting parental rights and the freedom to homeschool; calls to register /regulate homeschooling will remove those protections and jeopardize such freedom • Freedom & Privacy: Similar policies have led to privacy violations, government officials regularly entering homes, interviewing children without parents present, & more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased Authority: Over parental rights • Money: Public Education is hemorrhaging students and money; some estimate homeschooling in Michigan accounts for as much as \$500 million dollars <i>annually</i> in "potential" lost revenue to local school districts and thousands of teaching jobs • Control: Some seek to use public education for social engineering

History of Home Education in Michigan:

1984-May 25, 1993: Pioneers Fight for Parental Rights

Many homeschool families (Including the DeJonges) faced truancy charges, imprisonment, and threats of losing their children simply because they chose home education. Through nearly a decade of successful legal battles, God answered prayer. With a final 4-3 decision of the Michigan Supreme Court in 1993, Michigan became the most home-school friendly states in the nation.

1990's-2000's: Policy & Protection Perpetuate Growth

Government harassment of homeschooling parents became less common, especially after the legislature amended MCL 380.1561 to include a provision for homeschooling. Since then, homeschooling has flourished as the fastest growing form of non-public education.

Since 2019: Public Schools Pushes to Regulate Private

Throughout Governor Whitmer's administration, **Dr. Michael Rice, the State Superintendent of MI Public Instruction, has persistently called for the "registration" and "regulation" of homeschooling.** For the last 5 years, Dr. Rice, the State Board of Education, and the Attorney General have formed a steady undercurrent pushing legislators to register or regulate homeschooling

2023: Propaganda and Political Prosecution

In 2023, the Washington Post began publishing a series of articles focusing on homeschooling in Michigan, suggesting that homeschooling may be a cover for abuse. In December, AG Nessel politicized the prosecution of two homeschool families, even though charges had previously been dropped. Two days after the AG's press conference, Rep. Matt Koleszar, chair of the House Education Committee tweeted "Michigan is one of only 11 states that doesn't count or register homeschooled children, and abusive parents are taking advantage of that to avoid being found out. It's time to support all Michigan students and change that. Michigan cannot allow this loophole to continue." Rep. Koleszar's comments went viral, and in numerous news interviews, he has stated that registration is only a first step and that much more regulation is needed. He has alluded to the 2022 proposal of Senator Stephanie Chang as a possible template, **but no such bill has been introduced yet.**



How to Have Strategic Conversations with Legislators

Showcase Success:

- Introduce your family to your legislator
- Share your family's homeschool story, including student achievement
- Explain that protecting current homeschool law creates opportunities for other students
- Have children write a letter or draw a picture sharing what they love about homeschooling

Set the Record Straight:

Far from being dangerous, homeschooling is the SAFEST form of education:

- Homeschools are 257% safer than public school counterparts¹
- Many parents homeschool in order to protect their students from the dangers of public schools like violence², bullying, and sexual abuse³
- There is a 0% correlation⁴ between abuse and homeschooling;
- To protect children from abuse, the correct cause of abuse must be identified and addressed

We don't have "loopholes;" we have good laws:

- Homeschooling is not without regulation or oversight. Current laws require parents to provide "an organized educational program" with numerous criteria ([MCL 380.1561 \(f\)](#)).
- Homeschooled children are just like other children; they already have birth certificates, social security numbers, and are "registered" in many other ways already.
- Creating cumbersome requirements will not benefit children in any meaningful way, but it could endanger constitutionally protected parental rights ([MCL 380.10](#))

Suggest REAL Solutions:

- Don't create red tape for homeschoolers. Instead, ***"Protect parents' right to protect their children."***
- The energy of lawmakers would be better spent fixing problems facing our public schools, the foster care system, and other programs that aid the most vulnerable youth.
- Michigan should promote its successful homeschool policy to attract growing families

¹ Page 15. *Gen2Survey*. Generations with Vision and [Brian D. Ray, Ph.D.](#), March 15, 2018, <http://www.nheri.org/Gen2SurveyASpiritualandEducationalSurveyonChristianMillennials.pdf>

² "School Crime Fast Facts" Nation Center for Education Statistics, <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=49>

³ *Psychology Today*, "Educator Sexual Misconduct Remains Prevalent in Schools. Study finds 11.7% of recent grads report educator sexual misconduct." Elizabeth L. Jeglic, Ph. D., May 17, 2023. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/protecting-children-from-sexual-abuse/202305/educator-sexual-misconduct-remains-prevalent-in>

⁴ "The Relationship Between the Degree of State Regulation of Homeschooling and the Abuse of Homeschool Children (Students)" [Brian D. Ray, Ph.D.](#), March 15, 2018, <https://www.nheri.org/degree-of-homeschool-regulation-no-relationship-to-homeschool-child-abuse/>