



Indiana Association of Home Educators

P.O. Box 217 • Stilesville, IN 46180 • p: (317) 467.6244 • f: (317) 467.6246

www.iahe.net • iahe@iahe.net

October 3, 2016

Ms. Diane Clements-Boyd
Chairwoman of the Indiana Advisory Committee
to the U.S Commission on Civil Rights
Midwestern Regional Office
55 West Monroe, Suite 410
Chicago, IL 60603

Dear Ms. Clements-Boyd and the Indiana Advisory Committee to the U.S.
Commission on Civil Rights:

The draft of the School to Prison Pipeline report was not posted online for our review prior to the September 19, 2016 conference call. Homeschooling was not mentioned during the conference call, so there was no need to provide public comment at that time.

Once the draft was released for public viewing, we found a great deal about which to be concerned. The language “inadequately supervised and supported homeschooling” in the draft report is nebulous and troublesome. Home education is parent-directed, home-based, and privately-funded; it is defined in Indiana Code as a non-accredited, nonpublic school. While the Committee's report appears to be advocating for increased involvement in homeschooling, private home education has been occurring successfully in Indiana for decades without government involvement. Home education works because the parents take responsibility for the education of their children. The Indiana General Assembly has deemed that only minimum government involvement is necessary for successful home education programs in this state. We strongly believe that changing that would harm the spirit of independence and initiative needed to be an effective home educator. Personal responsibility is a key provision to a successful home education program.

The inclusion of Ms. Daniels' testimony about homeschooling being “completely unregulated” in Indiana is disturbing. Indiana Association of Home Educators (IAHE) as well as Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) testified in direct opposition to this assertion by Ms. Daniels. Indiana Association of Home Educators requested HSLDA provide testimony regarding Indiana Code that relates to home education. In fact, if current law was enforced it would prevent the issues with the School to Prison Pipeline as it relates to home education. We are disappointed to see that this information was omitted from the report. Both IAHE and HSLDA would have been more than willing to personally testify before the IAC-USCCR in the



Indiana Association of Home Educators

P.O. Box 217 • Stilesville, IN 46180 • p: (317) 467.6244 • f: (317) 467.6246
www.iahe.net • iahe@iahe.net

original hearing held on this topic. Unfortunately, we were not invited to do so until later.

Finally, we are troubled by: "The Committee notes that additional testimony from various home school advocates expressed strong support for properly supported home schooling as a positive intervention, especially for youth who are struggling in school.169" We are concerned that this sentence could be misconstrued to mean IAHE and others who testified believe that coercion of troubled students into "homeschooling" may be used as a positive intervention for troubled students. Once again, the vague language used in "properly supported" may be interpreted to mean government involvement. We reject the notion that government involvement in home education is beneficial to families. Home education must be a family decision without coercion from a governmental entity such as a public school. The parent must weigh the personal cost as to whether or not home education is a good fit for his or her child.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns regarding the draft report. You may contact me for further questions at debik@inhomeeducators.org or 317-467-6244 ext. 107.

Sincerely,

Debi Ketron
Member, Board of Directors
Director of Government Affairs

Cc: Home educators of the State of Indiana